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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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# WHY WE WON'T GET ELECTED MAYOR (...like Boris)

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## SKATE PARK CASH HOPES

Skateboarders and BMX riders who use Ashford's skate park at the Stour Centre could soon enjoy better ramps.

The popular park is just one of a number of projects around the borough hoping for new funding. Earlier this year five wooden ramps had to be removed because they had worn out.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

BY ED HILL

OUR council will vote tomorrow on having an elected Mayor but it seems no one knows... or cares.

Borough residents were asked to have their say on whether they wanted a directly-elected Mayor, like Boris Johnson for London.

The council admits it only asked the question in its self-published Voice magazine. And despite being pushed through 52,000 letterboxes, only one person responded.

It seems few read the council freesheet which might now be dumped as part of cost savings.

The one person who responded said he favoured a leader and executive cabinet option, the council's preferred structure.

Cllr Michael Cloughton, portfolio holder community and communications, is disappointed but not surprised by the lack of response.

He said: "The make-up of the council may not be very high up on people's agenda. In Ashford the current structure works well. The council performs well and the record shows that.

Cllr Cloughton said now the council had scrapped the State of the Borough debate, it was looking for better ways in which it could engage with the public.

He said: "We had very good response to our recent 'Have Your Say' survey, which was very encouraging and a lot of interesting suggestions have come out of it.

"People take an interest in certain things more than others.

"The closure of the magistrates' court has provoked a large response. When things affect

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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# Canadian pleads guilty to child abuse charges

A CANADIAN man who fled to Ashford in order to avoid child sex abuse charges has pleaded guilty to possessing child pornography.

John Cox, 34, was captured by Kent Police in May and extradited back to Victoria in Canada.

The IT specialist from Saanich in British Columbia had used a number of aliases to try to cover his tracks, but the UK Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre managed to locate him in Kent after Canadian police told them he had been seen at Heathrow Airport.

He was finally discovered at a home in Willesborough, where he had been renting a bedroom for three months.

At a court appearance on Thursday he admitted to possessing child pornography. However, he still faces nine more serious charges concerning sexual assault and grooming.

Cox has elected for those charges to be dealt with at a trial. He also faces a charge of illegally possessing a firearm after an incident back in 2008.

Saanich police issued a warrant for Cox's arrest after he failed to show up for a court appearance in February.

While he was on the run, he used the aliases of Sean Pulsen and Jean Guillaume, and tried to disguise his online identity by using encryption software.

At the time of his arrest, Det Insp Jon Holl from South Kent Public Protection Unit, said: "This is a practical example of the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies from local to international level working together to protect children in Ashford and across the UK."



Picture: GAVIN WEST

EXTRADITED: Paedophile John Cox

"I am immensely proud of my highly-motivated and specialist team of investigators, often working invisibly to the general public to protect our children."

Cox told people the reason he had come to Ashford was because he was writing a book about anti-social behaviour in the UK and America.

Canadian lawyers have asked for pre-sentence report to be prepared before his next court appearance.

Jim Gamble, chief executive of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, said: "This potentially dangerous individual tried very hard to cover his tracks, but he had underestimated the determination of CEOP and Kent Police officers to capture him."

"These cases show that the world is an increasingly smaller place for those who present a risk to children, wherever they are."

## Lack of response to survey 'not unusual'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"The closure of the magistrates' court has provoked a large response. When things affect people directly, then they let their feelings be known. "Hopefully we can engage better with people in the future and get a bigger response."

Ashford council is not the only one to have had a disappointing response from the public.

The report says Durham council received five responses, the London Borough of Harrow received one response and Birmingham council received none at all.



PETITION: Land earmarked for housing

## Greens back protest over new homes plan

RESIDENTS of Chilmington Green were joined by campaigners from the Green Party on Saturday to collect signatures opposing new housing.

The volunteers set up their petition in Ashford town centre.

The plans for Chilmington include about 7,000 homes on greenfield land on the edge of the Weald.

Campaigner Max Frohnsdorff said: "Our 10 volunteers collected approximately 800 signatures in the town centre on Saturday. The number of signatures on our petition is now approximately 1,400. This is an incredible result after just two weeks of petitioning."

"A large number of people told us that they had driven in to Ashford specifically to sign our petition, having read about the story for the first time in Yourashford."

Steve Campkin, from the Green Party, said: "Jobs can easily be created by supporting local businesses and starting a program of redevelopment in derelict areas of Ashford. We need micro-generation, bus lanes, cycle paths, insulation, community centres, schools, the list goes on. We do not need more houses."

# MP Green on immigration plans

ASHFORD MP Damian Green gave his first major speech as Immigration Minister on Monday.

In his talk, at the Royal Commonwealth Society in London, he gave the first indication of how the government intends to reduce the number of people entering the country.

One of the main targets is foreign students. More than 350,000 students obtained UK study visas last year, but a Home Office study has revealed fewer than half of them actually go to a university.

The rest often study at private colleges, obtaining qualifications such as GCSE and vocational courses.

A number of bogus colleges have also been discovered, which do not offer any education courses to their students at all.

The report also revealed about a



### SPEECH:

Ashford MP Damian Green outlined the government's plans for cutting immigration

fifth of the students were still in the country five years after getting a visa.

Last year the number of students coming to the UK rose by 35 per cent.

Mr Green said he did not intend to place a cap on the number of students coming to British universities, which gain a large amount of their

income from foreign students.

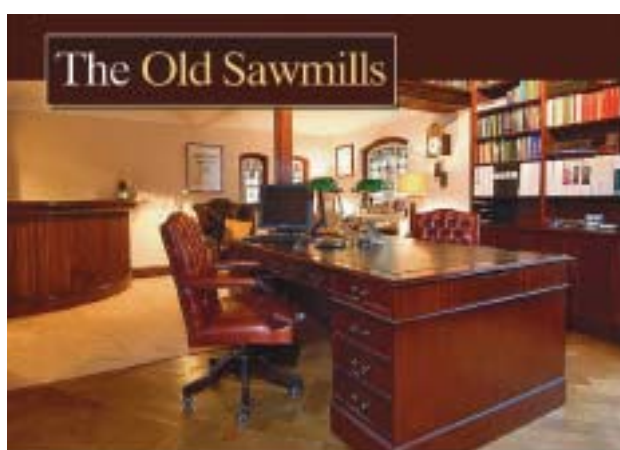
Mr Green said the Government was also looking more closely at the number of spouses and relatives who come to join migrants already here.

Mr Green told the BBC: "We can't assume that everyone coming here has skills UK workers cannot offer."

"We need to look at all the routes by which people come into this country, maybe for education, for family reunions and also routes that lead to permanent settlement."

The government wants to cut immigration by about a half. Last year, net immigration rose by a fifth to about 196,000.

A Home Office spokesman said: "Research shows that of those obtaining a right to work in 2004, two fifths of this group were still in the UK in 2009."



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# Cash boost could ramp up fun at skate park

■ BY ED HILL

REPLACEMENT skate ramps, a better office for the Citizens' Advice Bureau and a new cycle path could all get funding at a council meeting tomorrow.

The money for the community projects will come from spare cash held by the Ashford's Future Partnership Board.

It is left over from some of the large infrastructure projects that have been built with the town's Growth Area Funding.

The council's Executive Committee will be discussing whether to approve the new funding on Thursday evening.

The council recently had to close two ramps at the popular skate park next to the Stour Centre because they were unsafe. These have been replaced with temporary wooden ramps, but the council hopes to make more long-term improvements.

It estimates ramps with a 20-year lifespan will cost about £82,000.

Park user Harry Lintell, 19, said: "There is plenty of room for more ramps. If you get more than 20 people you have to wait a long time to get on them. The ones we have are also pretty small, so it would be good to get bigger ones."

Some skateboarders would like to see concrete ramps, but the park is on a flood plain next to the Stour River, which makes them unlikely.

If the plans are approved the council estimates use of the park could go up by as much as 50 per cent.



**IMPROVEMENTS:** New ramps could increase usage of the skate park by 50 per cent, according to the council

Another beneficiary would be the Citizen's Advice Bureau. The charity's current location in Norwood Road is small and in need of repairs. The service, staffed by volunteers, plans to move to a larger office building in the Lower High Street, but this has been put on hold until it can secure the funding.

The council wants to put £60,000 towards the move so the charity can provide a better service.

The final scheme to benefit from the diverted funds would be the Willesborough Dykes cycleway and footpath.

The new route would create a safe link for walkers and cyclists running from Asda past the A2070 to Park Farm.

It is estimated the scheme would need £685,000 of funding from the partnership board.

Cllr Bernard Heyes portfolio holder for cultural services said: "All three community projects would be welcomed by residents as valuable improvements helping to ensure community services improve, along with the growth in housing and highway infrastructure."

## Cash and safe stolen from pub

BURGLARS struck at the Woolpack Pub in Tenterden last week.

The thieves made off with cash and a safe from the public house in the High Street.

The raid was carried out by three men at 6.10am on Tuesday, August 31.

The first man was 5ft 11in, of average build and wore dark clothing, a baseball cap and a scarf over his face.

The second was shorter, wearing dark clothing with a hooded top pulled over his head and a scarf over his face.

The third also wore dark clothing and was slightly shorter than the first two.

It is believed they drove away in a white pick-up truck, towards Ashford.

If you have information about the burglary call police on 01622 690690, and quote crime reference FY/13999/10, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

## On the scent of perfume burglar

POLICE are looking for a burglar who stole perfume worth £5,000 from Boots the Chemist in Tenterden High Street.

The break-in happened at about 3.20am on Tuesday, August 31.

The burglar caused damage estimated at £3,200 to external and internal doors.

The offender is said to be 5ft 10in tall, and was wearing black clothing.

He either had black hair or wore a black hat. It is thought he drove off in the direction of Oaks Road in a small silver car.

Police would like to speak to anyone who has information that may help the enquiry.

Call 01622 690690 or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Train workers' fight for jobs

WORKERS at the Bombardier train maintenance depot in Chart Leacon have written to MP Damian Green demanding their jobs be saved.

The letter comes after a meeting held by members of the RMT union last Thursday.

The company wants to cut 155 jobs and transfer work to other sites, leaving just a handful of employees in Ashford.

The union has launched a campaign hoping to persuade the large Canadian engineering company to reconsider its decision.

The letter states: "Bombardier is justifying its decision to close the site down by stating that the retention of some work is not viable due to high heating costs. This work would keep the depot open as a viable workshop into the future.

"The company could choose to invest, with the help of government grants/tax breaks, in renewable energy such as solar panels on the roof; a short term investment to ensure the long term viability of this site. Instead they have decided that this highly skilled workforce be thrown on the dole.

"Our railways should be a powerhouse for a green stimulus to help beat the recession."

The company announced the plans last month to the shock of its employees.



**ARSON THEORY:** The charred building at the McLaren Foods site at the Beaver road Industrial Estate

## Arson suspected as former factory burns

LARGE clouds of black smoke could be seen above South Ashford on Friday evening, as fire ripped through a disused food factory following a suspected arson attack.

The blaze destroyed the roof of the building at the McLaren Foods site at the Beaver Road Industrial Estate.

At the height of the fire, about 40 firefighters from Ashford, Wye, Charing, Maidstone and Chilham were at the scene.

Six fire engines were called to the blaze, along with a ladder truck.

Other businesses in the area were evacuated as a precaution due to the large amount of smoke.

Fire crews remained at the scene the next day, using thermal imaging equipment to locate hotspots.

No one was hurt, but the cause of the blaze is being investigated.

One neighbouring businessman said this was not the first time crews had been called to the site because of a fire and there are suspicions it may have been started deliberately.

A spokesman for Kent Fire and Rescue said: "We were called to the Beaver Industrial Estate at 7.18pm to reports that a disused food factory was alight. Firefighting operations were scaled down to two appliances and a height vehicle at 11pm."

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# Business booms in town due to rail link success

■ BY ED HILL

THE high-speed rail link is paying off for Ashford as companies move into the town to take advantage of the fast link with London.

The latest is Sagittarius Marketing, which had been based in Folkestone for the last 30 years, but has moved to Ashford to make it easier for clients.

## Trend

The move is part of a growing trend for companies taking advantage of the 37-minute journey time to St Pancras.

Richard Lavender, chairman of the economic development group at the Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "I would say at least eight or nine companies have moved here because of HS1."

"Companies are realising Ashford is not a shot in the dark. Things are really happening here. Things are moving fast with brand-new offices and factories. It really is a big advantage to be where HS1 starts."

Large companies that have moved to Ashford include Smiths Medical, which specialises in making electronic equipment for the health sector. The company leased offices at Eureka Park last year.

Mr Lavender said: "At the moment Eureka Park is almost full with new companies coming from outside the area. St Pancras is now seen as the natural connection for London. A lot of the infrastructure required for the future of Ashford has also gone ahead, which helps."

Sagittarius Marketing says moving to Ashford may also help it to open an office in London.

CEO Paul Stephen said: "Ashford is a dynamic location with great road and rail connectivity, including the new rail service to London, which enables us to service clients in the capital with ease."



**BIG BUSINESS:** Sagittarius Marketing move to Ashford

"The move has injected a new sense of energy and direction into the business and this is reflected in our choice of new office."

The company's digital arm specialises in services such as website design, search engine marketing, online advertising and targeted email and viral marketing.

During the past year it has completed major digital marketing projects for clients such as the European Red Cross, Hertford College and Kent County Council.

Mr Stephen said: "These are perhaps the most significant developments in the agency's history and signal that we are serious in our ambitions to expand to become a leading force in the sector."



**JUNIOR CHOICE:** Children at Kennington Cricket Club enjoy their success at the presentation day

## Cricket club is above batting average

A PRESENTATION day was held at Kennington Cricket Club for its junior section last week.

The team receives support from the Park Mall shopping centre.

Through its body of qualified coaches the club provides cricket activities to local children throughout the summer.

The club ran two junior teams this year that competed in the Ashford & District

Junior Cricket League.

Head coach John Cunningham said: "We have been delighted and surprised by the level of interest from our local children and we have made changes to accommodate the growing number of children who want to be involved."

Any children aged 4 to 11 who would like to be involved can call John Cunningham on 01233 631672.

## yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

### Arrests made in police burglary crackdown

POLICE have taken part in a three-day crackdown on burglary.

The operation took place in residential areas around the town including Willesborough and Kennington and patrols were carried out during the late evening and early hours of the morning in July.

Officers say they caught several criminals over the three days.

However, despite the rise of burglary during the summer months, police say many homeowners still leave their homes vulnerable to break-ins.

Police say people need to keep windows closed at night and when they are out of the house. They should not leave front or back doors wide open if they are not nearby.

If you are away for a few days or on holiday, ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your home.

### Police release assault efit

AN efit has been released of a man police want to speak to after a serious assault in Brookfield Road.

The 30-year-old victim left the Crusader pub on Sunday, May 30 with friends at around 10pm when three men followed him.

He was attacked just beyond the junction with Allen Fields. A passer-by took the victim to the William Harvey Hospital.

Anyone who can help is asked to contact Kent Police on 01622 690690.



### Ask about health services

A MEETING about local health services is being held next Wednesday.

Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS, which covers the Ashford area, will hold its annual general meeting on September 15 from 9am at the Business Enterprise Centre Dover, St Edmunds Catholic School, Old Charlton Road.

The meeting is open to local people who can also submit questions prior to the meeting.

To ask a question, submit it in advance by 5pm on Friday, September 10, to Lynne Stuart, Board Secretary, Brook House, Reeves Way, Chestfield, Whitstable, CT5 3DD or by email lynne.stuart@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk

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## Palestine lecture

A TALK about the situation in Palestine will be given tomorrow (Thursday) by a Tenterden churchman.

The lecture, by the Rev Alwyn Knight, will be at a meeting of the newly-formed east Kent Justice for Palestinians group.

Mr Knight recently spent time at a Palestinian village in the West Bank which has been targeted for Israeli settlement.

He said: "I'm impressed by the courage and resilience of Palestinian villagers and especially by their commitment to non-violent resistance. They are determined to resist the occupation of their land and threat to their way of life."

The talk, Weapons of the Weak, is at the St Paul's Church Centre, Church Street St Paul's, Canterbury, from 7.30pm. Admission is free.

## Pauline has a word

SHOPPERS at Park Farm Tesco had the chance to meet their local Police Community Support Officer and Kent County Council community warden last week.

PCSO Pauline Stevens, pictured left, and community warden Peter Beasley were at the store to speak to residents about issues they would like them to tackle.

PCSO Stevens said: "We spoke with many people who told us their concerns and some gave us information which could help with our inquiries."

A mobile police station will be outside the store on Monday, September 27, from 1pm, when shoppers will once again have the chance to speak to officers.



# Young carers say thanks to TV's Secret Millionaire

■ BY ED HILL

YOUNG carers from Ashford were given the chance to enjoy a trip to the seaside after a donation by Secret Millionaire Paul Ragan.

Mr Ragan featured in the latest series of Channel 4 TV series The Secret Millionaire, aired in March.

The businessman, who made his fortune in insurance, spent two weeks with a carers charities in Derby. He revealed how he had been a carer himself, having to deal with his mother's schizophrenia as a child.

At the end of the show the 42-year-old multi-millionaire gave charities large donations so they could continue their work.

And, thanks to Mr Ragan, 300 carers from Kent and Sussex spent the day at Butlins in Bognor Regis. The event was part of a follow-up programme in which Mr Ragan organises events at Butlins camps around the country.

The carers were able to make the most of the facilities at the holiday camp, where a whole day of entertainment had been organised for them.

Seven young people from Ashford were taken by the local charity Carers' Support, based at Beaver Business Park.

Support workers Gemma Clarke and Hetty Phillips also attended with the children, which was part of a nationwide day out supported by



the Princess Royal Trust for Carers.

Ms Phillips said: "The young carers had a brilliant day. They especially enjoyed going on the dodgems and the umbrella rides. They were all given a free lunch and could help themselves to soft drinks and snacks throughout the day."

"It was a fantastic day for them all and it was lovely that they got the chance to meet and thank Paul Ragan personally."

### SECRET SEVEN:

Ashford young carers with Paul Ragan at Butlins, from left, Stevie Bracken, Georgia Bird, Phillip Bird, Nicole Garrabos, Mr Ragan, Lauren Garrabos, Robbie Bracken and William Bird

The day was rounded off with live entertainment from a Take That tribute band, giving the guests a chance to sing and dance.

In the Channel 4 show, Mr Ragan said: "When I was five I had a very emotional time looking after my mother."

"I wanted to meet people who had similar experiences to myself and show you can get through these tough times."

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### HELEN LEE



**Q** How did you get involved with the Ashford International Chinese Association?

**A** I was one of the founders of the association and I was chairperson for the first year in 2004. Now I edit the newsletter and help out here and there. We're quite a relaxed group; people are welcome to get involved as much or as little as they want.

**Q** What made you to set up the association?

**A** I decided to start the group because I retired in 2003 and while that was heaven on earth at first, after three months I couldn't get used to the quiet and not being on the move. I offered to help out with several groups but they never got back to me. I felt there was hardly any community spirit in the area so I thought I could try to start up something family-based. Now it's like having an extended family that's bigger than just the four of us; me, my husband and two children. We range from newborns to a 90-year-old grandmother who's lived in the area for more than 40 years. There's no colour coding, we have some local people come along and anyone can attend if they're interested in sitting down, eating a meal with us and getting to know a bit about our culture.

**Q** Why is the association important?

**A** The group is based on four principles. Firstly, the importance of social activities,

because human beings should be social creatures no matter what their colour or age. We focus on education and the importance of life-long learning and group learning, as everyone has something to offer. An important part of what we do is bridging the social gap; we live in England but don't always understand the English way of living. Traditionally, as a people, the Chinese are very shy and a lot of people come here for the peaceful, quiet environment away from the political instability back home. Finally we help people see themselves as stakeholders in society. We had a talk from the police to help members understand they are working for us not against us; some people can find it hard to trust the forces after bad experiences before coming here. In England we feel we can speak up for ourselves more.

**Q** What does the group do?

**A** We meet once a month at St Teresa's Church in Ashford, usually on the second Sunday of the month; our next meeting is Sunday, September 12. On average about 40-50 members attend and we share a traditional meal before listening to talks or presentations. Originally, I cooked the meal, but I was getting up at 5am in a mad rush to get everything ready, so now we have caterers come in. In our last meeting we heard from the NHS about healthy living and wellbeing and then the equal opportunities group spoke about

consumers' rights. Sometimes we run classes; we used to run a language course for the little tots and I'd like to organise Tai-Chi lessons after running into a true master the other day in the street.

**Q** Are there any big events coming up?

**A** Our next big celebration won't be until the Chinese New Year on February 3, 2011. We're in the year of the tiger at the moment and next year should be the year of the rabbit. People born in that year will be talented, honest and gentle but can be indecisive and passive. They should ideally marry a sheep or a boar but definitely not a rooster. I'm supposedly an oxen; inspiring, bright and patient. I married a snake which is perfect for me.

Other important days in our calendar include Ching Ming, when we go out to clean our ancestor's graves and honour the dead, and the annual dragon boat festival. I would love to launch some boats, but we don't have room here, instead we celebrate with traditional rice parcels. We also take part in events with other organisations; the Ashford International Association organised a display in the high street on Saturday, July 10, and we had a small stall with traditional dancing and singing.

If you would like to find out more about the association or join their mailing list, you can email them at [aica@hotmail.com](mailto:aica@hotmail.com).

**Q & A**

Helen Lee, former chairperson of the Ashford International Chinese Association, speaks to **Florence Tennent** about what the society does for the community and what it hopes to achieve in the future.

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# Kent patients miss out on vital diabetes pump

AN NHS "postcode lottery" has been blamed for diabetes patients in Kent missing out on the full range of available treatments.

The Medical Technology Group (MTG) – a coalition of patient groups, research charities and medical manufacturers – claims only a tiny percentage of diabetics currently receive insulin pump therapy as an alternative to injections.

Recommended for people suffering from type 1 diabetes, the treatment is only currently being used by 0.25 per cent of patients in the NHS Medway region – well below the 12 per cent

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

national target set by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

The Eastern and Coastal Kent figure is only moderately higher at 1.5 per cent, while the uptake at NHS West Kent is 5.7 per cent.

The national average is 3.9 per cent.

John Davis is the founder of insulin pump awareness group Input, which is a member of the MTG.

He said: "Access to a treatment as important as insulin pumps should not be dependent on where you live.

"Insulin pumps have been recommended by NICE as they are an efficient use of the NHS's resources and can have a dramatic impact on patients' quality of life and clinical outcomes.

"The MTG is campaigning to improve patient access to insulin pumps by ensuring every person with type 1 diabetes – no matter where they live – receives the specialist care they need."

Insulin pumps are small devices attached to a patient's waist which feed insulin into the body via a plastic tube as and when needed.

All three of Kent's primary care trusts told KOS Media they were committed to providing all available treatments for type 1 patients.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent said it was



**Treatment:** The pumps used by type 1 diabetes patients

currently funding 46 people to receive insulin pump therapy and that it was working hard to increase provision and support.

NHS West Kent admitted it was a "lengthy and complicated" process to transfer patients to the alternative treatment, but said uptake had increased considerably over the last few years and that nobody who meets the NICE criteria is turned away.

A spokesman for NHS Medway said the uptake rate of insulin pump therapy had risen to one per cent since the MTG survey was taken, and that patients work with specialists at Medway Hospital to decide which treatment will suit them best.



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## M6 toll could warn of crossing's future

INFLATION-busting charges on the M6 toll road are proof that motorists need to be protected by any sale of the Dartford crossing, campaigners warn.

Last October the previous Labour government announced plans to offload the crossing to the private sector as part of a portfolio of "non-financial assets", but the new Con-Lib coalition has yet to make a decision on its fate.

Should the sale get the go-ahead, the Campaign for Better Transport has warned against giving whoever purchases the development the power to set toll charges as high as they like.

This week the group published its report on the M6 toll road in the West Midlands, where motorists were hit with above-inflation price increases as a result of its private owner losing money.

Roads campaigner Richard George said: "It's important any sale of the Dartford crossing is regulated. The Government should learn from the M6 toll road.

"It was built to help reduce congestion on the M6 and started off at £2 to use. But every year the company that owns it raised the toll above inflation because it wasn't making as much money as it thought it would.

"It now costs £5 to use the road, six years after it was opened. If such a situation was to occur at Dartford, it could be a lot worse, because most people don't have an option but to use the crossing."

When the QEII Bridge was built almost 20 years ago, the Tory government of the time promised motorists would not be charged to cross the Thames once the construction cost was met.

However, the tolls remained once the debt was cleared in 2003 and in 2008 road-users were even hit with increased charges at certain times of the day.

Mr George warned that congestion and pollution at the crossing could also get worse if it is sold to a private company.

"One of the major issues that arose from our study of the M6 toll road was that there was concern from people living locally that the operators had been encouraging more development in an attempt to increase traffic," he said.

"Such a situation at Dartford would be bad for the M25 and surrounding roads.

"The needs of a private company are often very different to the needs of local people, so the Government is going to have to strike a balance."

A Department for Transport spokeswoman said no decisions would be made about the future of the Dartford crossing until after the Comprehensive Spending Review has been published next month.





**LUCKY FIND:** Simon Mason with the bracelets

## Site visit unearths major historic find

TWO gold bracelets unearthed after almost 3,000 years were spotted by chance.

The items were left buried under the Kent soil for thousands of years, but after a leading archaeological expert visited an excavation site, he spotted them on top of earth already moved during the big road dig.

The discovery is so important, it is set to be filmed by the BBC for its Digging for Britain programme.

The bracelets

join some 10,000 other important finds unearthed by volunteers and experts on the East Kent Access site between Ramsgate and Sandwich, the biggest archaeological excavation in the country this year.

And all that historic 'treasure' means the experts are learning a huge amount about how people were living on the Isle of Thanet from earliest times.

The 'Indiana Jones' teams have found prehistoric burial monuments, Iron Age enclosures and a village that would have watched the Roman invasion, plus Saxon cemeteries, tracks and the remains of a shellfish processing site.

These late-Bronze Age bracelets date from around 700BC. They were sitting on top of a pile of earth dug from a trench when Kent County Council principal archaeological officer, Simon Mason, found them while on a site visit with a small group of colleagues.

He said: "It was incredible – a really exciting find. I couldn't believe it when I saw them. It's the first time I've found gold in 30 years as an archaeologist."

"They looked too good to be real. I picked them up and took them over to my colleagues and said: 'What do you make of these?'"

"They were quite tarnished to start with. When we washed them and cleaned them we realised they were something special."

The time teams believe they had once been worn by children and may have been worship offerings, placed near to water. They were found together, one pushed inside the other.



**TREASURE:** The bracelets are 3,000 years old

# Milibands gain MPs' support

KENT'S former Labour MPs have thrown their weight behind the Miliband brothers as the siblings battle it out to be Labour leader.

The brothers, who have both visited the county in recent months, are up against former health secretary Andy Burnham, ex-education minister Ed Balls and backbencher Diane Abbott.

David Miliband, 45, was the first to enter the race after Mr Brown stepped down as Prime Minister in May.

As a front-runner alongside his 40-year-old brother, Mr Miliband has garnered support from party members following his visit to the

■ BY MARIJKE COX

county just weeks after the Tory landslide.

Ex-Chatham and Aylesford MP Jonathan Shaw and former Thanet South MP Stephen Ladyman are backing the hopeful.

Mr Shaw spoke last Wednesday at a Medway Labour Party meeting in support of the elder Miliband brother who he described as "dynamic and intellectual" earlier this year.

Dr Ladyman also revealed to KOS Media he would be voting for him, saying Mr Miliband would bring confidence back to the party and make it easier for party members to



**LEADERSHIP RIVALS:** David (left) and Ed Miliband

educate voters in the South East.

Former Dover and Deal MP Gwyn Prosser and ex-Medway MP Bob Marshall-Andrews revealed they would be voting for Ed Miliband.

Mr Prosser said: "In terms of regeneration and housing in east Kent, I think Ed, as leader, would make momentous things happen."

Former MP for Gillingham and Rainham Paul Clark, however, is backing Ed Balls.

Former Dartford MP Howard Stoate and ex-Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Derek Wyatt were unavailable for comment.

The results of the leadership contest will be announced at the party's annual conference in Manchester on September 25.

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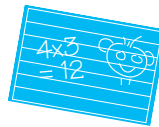
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## BREAK TIME

### Open days give a taste of school life

Ashford School will be holding a series of open days throughout the coming term.

A spokesman for the school said: "These are for intimate groups of parents and children to see the school on a normal working day, to meet some pupils and staff and to hear from the head.

"They can be followed up later by a taster day, where your child will be paired with a 'buddy' for the day and will follow the their timetable, thereby experiencing the same lessons and activities.

"We find these taster days are a very positive experience and give children a real insight into life as a pupil at Ashford School or Ashford Friars Prep School."

The first open day will be held on September 21.

To find out more about forthcoming open and taster days, go to [www.ashford.school.co.uk](http://www.ashford.school.co.uk).

### Top recognition for technology progress

Benenden Primary School has been given a certificate recognising its work using technology to teach the pupils.

The school has now completed nearly half the categories towards gaining its full ICT Mark.

Headteacher Jenny Reich said: "We are delighted to have been recognised for our progress towards ICT excellence. It's a brilliant way for us to show pupils, parents and the wider community that we are committed to using ICT in the best way we can."



**AMBASSADORS:** The students from the North School took every opportunity to see the sights during their visit to China where they took part in a climate change expo



# Students travel to China as part of global community

■ BY ED HILL

JUST before this year's summer break, seven students at the North School took part in a life-changing visit to China.

They were invited to the Shanghai International Youth Science and Technology Expo, which concentrated on climate change.

The group was part of 400 students and 80 teachers from across the world taking part.

The five-day expo focused on science, technology, innovation and global warming.

The students, David Martin, Alison Dempsey, Louis Fowle, Lauren Hopson, Selma James, Tegan Cooke, and Molly Griffiths stayed at the Shanghai High School.

They took part in workshops, seminars and

exhibitions as well as sightseeing.

David Martin was awarded an Excellent Thesis prize for his essay and presentation which explored sustainable travel and energy-efficient design. The students were also presented with certificates from the Shanghai Urban Building Practice Association in acknowledgement of the work they had undertaken to promote sustainability in Ashford.

Deputy Head Stephen Dove, who accompanied the children, said: "They travelled around the world, experienced a different culture and made international friends. The Chinese were incredibly welcoming and very generous. Students from all countries worked collective-

ly to explore the problems presented by climate change and the potential solutions. Each recognised their responsibility as part of a global community."

In addition to the academic work, students visited the Shanghai's Lujiazui district and Pearl Tower. They also shopped in the Nanjing Road and visited the Bund, Yuyuan Garden and Jing'an Temple.

In the evening students were able to try Chinese brush painting, Tai Chi, Origami, Calligraphy or attend a student party.

On the final night, they were presented with awards given a display by the Chinese Circus.

Mr Dove said: "We are extremely proud of them for being such good ambassadors. They thrived on the challenges, grew in confidence and benefited greatly from this experience."

**SEND your schools news and pictures to [yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)**

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# MP sees cardiac centre in action

■ BY ED HILL

A SPECIALIST cardiac unit at the William Harvey Hospital had a top government visitor last week.

Anne Milton, the minister for public health, was given a tour of the Cardiac Catheter Suit. The ward deals with heart emergencies which come in from across Kent.

If someone suffers a suspected heart attack, ambulance crews monitor their heart and send the information to the centre.

The doctors on call then make a decision about how serious the case is. If a heart attack is taking place the patient is rushed to the ward where they undergo immediate surgery.

Normally this involves a small tube being inserted into their artery and a stent (a tiny expanding frame) being placed at the site of the blockage.

Consultant cardiologist Bet Mishra said: "Getting a stent in is more effective than using clot-busting drugs. We've worked out that everyone from around the county should be able to get here in time. We had to centralise the service so we could run it for 24 hours.

"When patients arrive, the surgery team is ready to carry out the procedure, which normally takes less than an hour. Patients stay in this hospital for two or three nights before going home and having their rehab at

a local hospital."

Anne Milton told Yourashford: "The fact the numbers going through this ward have well exceeded what was expected shows how much it was needed. The staff are committed and the patients are thrilled with the treatment they are getting."

The minister also spent time getting feedback from frontline staff at the hospital.

She said the coalition Government was still committed to the NHS and would not be reducing spending, but the service still needed to be more efficient.

She said: "We need to take the dead hand of the state off the NHS and separate distant politicians from the everyday running of it.

"The health service has been clogged up by bureaucracy, red tape and measuring targets. We need to let doctors and nurses concentrate on treating patients and insure management and bureaucracy does not get in their way."

The minister also argued a local approach for the NHS would help to make better outcomes for patients.

She said: "Different areas have different needs. We want solutions that are locally led."



Visit: Anne Milton MP chats to staff at William Harvey

## Chamber set to hold debt advisory service

THE Invicta Chamber of Commerce will be holding a regular debt advisory service at its office in Sevington.

The chamber aims to provide advice for local business people who may be experiencing cash flow problems in the current economic climate.

Martin Kingman, a specialist in debt recovery and insolvency with solicitors Furley Page, will be on hand to give free advice.

Mr Kingman has experience of mediation and arbitration and can assist in finding methods of payment. He also advises on insolvency, bankruptcy and all aspects of credit control.

The hour-long sessions will be available on Wednesdays from October 6 to December 15.

To book an appointment, contact Rob Booth on 01233 503 838 or email rob@kentinvicta.chamber.co.uk.

## Tourism staff get Out & About in Tenterden

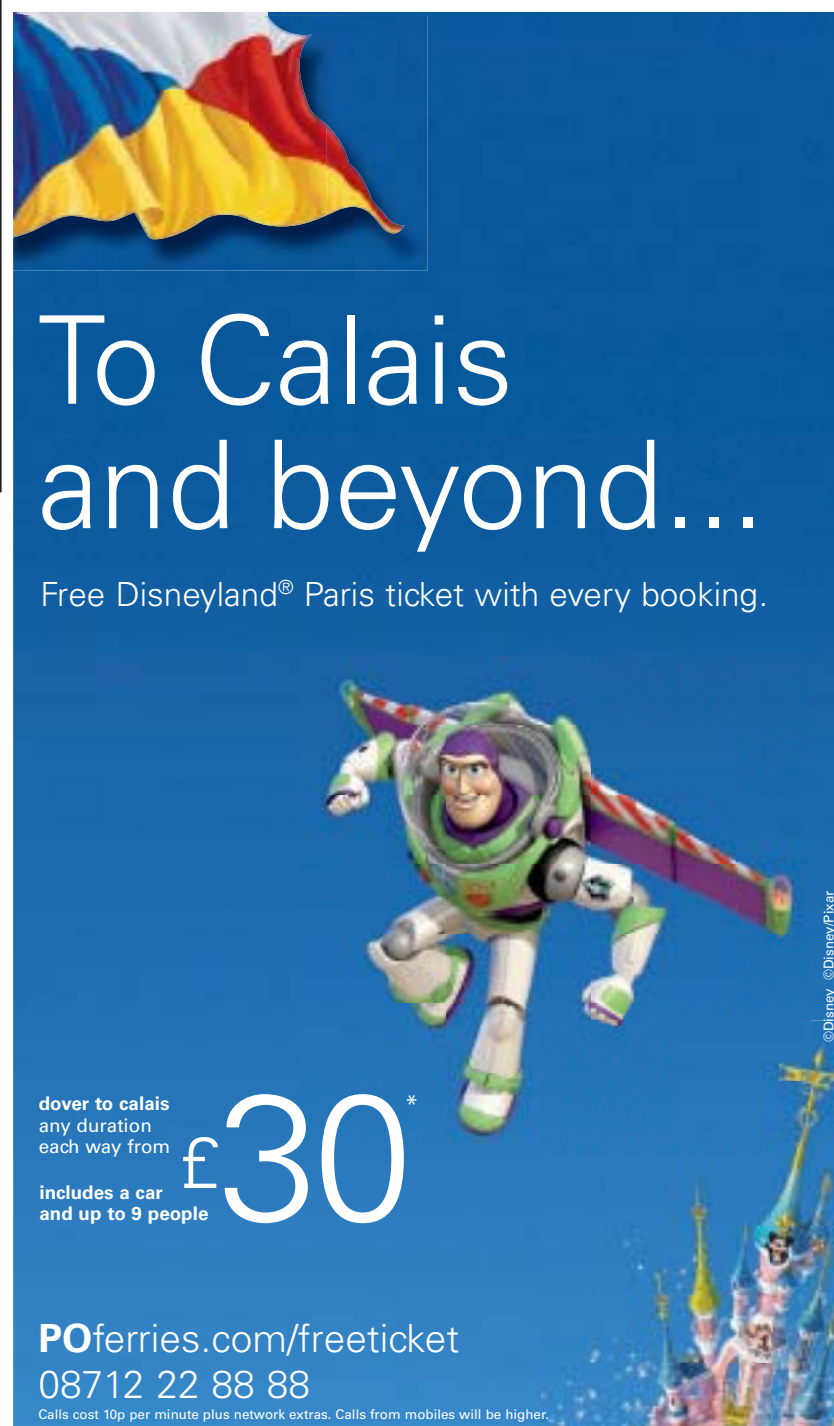
VISIT Kent is organising a special day out for people working in tourism to Tenterden.

The Out & About visit is designed to raise awareness of the town's attractions.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of the county's tourism body, said: "Personal recommendations are important to people when they are visiting a new area.

"Our familiarisation visits enable people working in the sector to become better informed about local attractions."

The tour takes place on Thursday October 21. The outing costs £10 per person including lunch and refreshments. If you work in tourism, leisure or hospitality and would like to book a place, call Visit Kent on 01622 696936 or email celebratingkent@kent.gov.uk.



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# your letters



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## YOUR LETTERS



## Young Florence can count her blessings

Your blogger Florence Tennent is relatively lucky. At least she's a girl. Pity the unfortunate Percy Florence, son of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Katharine A Gilchrist, by email

## Europe to blame for fishing disaster

Your paper wouldn't be reporting the sorry plight of our local fishing industry if it wasn't for the rest of Europe's fishing fleets scraping up everything possible from around our shores.

It all started when Broadstairs Tory and Prime Minister Edward Heath handed control of our fishing grounds to the EU (Evil Union) in 1972. Since then our centuries-old fishing industry has been virtually wiped out by draconian rules that favour other countries' fishing fleets.

It is also disgusting that our government now has to crawl to Brussels in order to get protection for sandbanks on the Kent coast.

They are our fishing grounds and we should not have to grovel to Brussels for permission about what we do with them.

We should leave the EU now and build back our fishing fleets to what they once were and also save the British taxpayer countless billions of pounds every year by stopping all payments to Brussels.

And let me remind Thanet South Tory MP Laura Sandys, it was her party that got our fishing industry in the state it is in today.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

## Education system has been wrecked

Education: what a farce. Ken Little is right, councillors are already paid too much. Committee membership is robbing us – raiding budgets to reward them and heads of service.

Hindsight is generally unhelpful, apart from showing how blinded we were by unscrupulous governments, eurorats and their bureaucratic partisans. No matter who gets elected, the collateral damage continues. Education, like any public service, was once a matter of national pride and universal provision. Grammar schools were for the intellectually

## yourblogger

Kent's further education system needs a thorough revision, believes Gary Wright...



THE other week I wrote about how I couldn't understand the huge pressure there is on 18-year-olds to get into university at any cost – including that £21,000 debt after three years.

My attention has now been drawn to the scandalous way many 16-year-olds are being treated. Here's a little publicised fact for you: did you know that almost every secondary school in Kent with a sixth form forbids any visits or input by colleges?

That means year 11 pupils don't really get the chance to see what else is on offer. The school provides its sixth form option and the pupil makes a choice.

A cynic might say this is to ensure schools retain the funding for two more years – most college bosses would agree. And our children are really being let down.

The first let down is the fact that the average sixth form is not particularly vocational. Nor does their one-size-fits-all approach to A-levels suit many.

I know of two cases where youngsters had to choose four A-level subjects and were told they could drop one after a year. Photography A-levels were offered to youngsters who had no interest at all.

So students are forced to choose the A-levels available rather than the ones they may wish to take. A case of youngsters having to fit the system rather than a system geared up to individual needs.

But what happens if your child doesn't meet the grades for sixth form? Bear in mind you are dealing with an individual who has geared his life and expectations, driven by the school, for the next two

years to a place in sixth form. I will illustrate this with one school: Norton Knatchbull in Ashford. A decent boys' grammar with an above average record in pupils attaining five grade Cs or above at GCSE, one of the main benchmarks for schools. Knatchbull insists its sixth formers will need eight grade Cs or above to get in. They must achieve Bs in subjects they wish to take at A-level and a minimum of Cs in English and maths.

In one case this year a pupil has managed only a D in maths and has been told two days before term begins that there is no place for him because the sixth form 'could be filled twice over'.

He was never warned about this, so a week after learning his results has begun the search for a college place. And the school admits it doesn't allow colleges to access its pupils. Additionally, when it was accused by his parents of casting someone aside because his exam results were a little low, the master agreed.

To me this is more worrying than the way pupils are forced through an academic system which results in a £20,000 debt for what in many cases is a useless degree.

So, the warning for all GCSE pupils and their parents is clear: take a look at what colleges can offer and do not assume sixth form is best.

I believe it's the fault of the system that has evolved and a teaching staff geared up to retaining their income rather than what's best for their students. Either they know it's failing the students and they can't be bothered to change it, or they are so out of touch that they don't recognise how badly they are letting youngsters down.

Colleges must be allowed access to our secondary schools – and schools must do more for those individuals who fall below their predicted results.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact news editor **Gareth Arnold** on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourashford.co.uk](http://www.yourashford.co.uk).

able, comprehensives were for the more technically inclined. There was a snobbish prejudice against polytechnics and equally unrealistic kudos towards university degrees.

Any wordsmith knows language comprehension is easy and natural for some of us, while vocational, technical, scientific subjects were better taught by dedicated technical colleges, and the arts in art colleges.

Was their inappropriate, insidious transformation into generic universities in 1992 done for political purposes under a misguided Tory policy? To blame foreign students is too easy. Their fees boost university revenues. Under New Labour, Indian doctors lured to the UK were forced to pay exam fees on the pretence they would subsequently be offered work here. Some young doctors were left destitute after spending the cash only to be denied work.

Governments, industrialists, subsidised semi-privatised utilities and local councils demand a submissive, cheap labour force they can hire and fire. Are jobs going to East Europeans, Antipodeans and South African whites?

Bangladeshis and Pakistanis often toil in sweatshops, restaurants or minicabs, with poor conditions and housing. They pay disproportionately high taxes and other contributions out of meagre wages and face daily discrimination. Racists are easily inflamed.

It's far harder to sift the truth out of the lies and excuses emanating

from governments whose interest lies in helping the super-rich with our cash. They are destroying the fabric of our lives, treating us as cashpoints while we have jobs. If we lose jobs or income through their mismanagement, they accept no responsibility. There is nothing worse than being cheated, defrauded and overcharged from the cradle to the grave.

Is that the future in England?  
**Rita Grootendorst**  
Campaigner for affordable living

## Walking can leave cancer risk behind

I'm writing to let your readers know there is now strong scientific evidence that being regularly physically active reduces your risk of developing cancer later in life.

One of the easiest ways to be active is walking. It's something most people can do without any preparation and you don't need special equipment to do it.

This is why we at World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) have launched our Walking Together campaign, where people can support us by organising sponsored walks for family and friends.

The money raised will help us continue funding cancer-prevention research and raising awareness that people can reduce their risk of cancer by eating healthily, being physically active and maintaining a healthy weight.

We also hope it will encourage people to get into the habit of walking, both as a hobby and as part of their daily lives.

To find out more about the Walking Together campaign, email [events@wcrf.org](mailto:events@wcrf.org) or call 020 7343 4205. You can also visit our website at [www.wcrf-uk.org/walk](http://www.wcrf-uk.org/walk) to find out more information, register your event and download free resources.

**Sian Fraser, events fundraiser**  
World Cancer Research Fund

## Give holiday change to help sick pets

Vet charity PDSA has launched a new fundraising campaign encouraging animal-lovers to donate leftover holiday change.

The initiative is being backed by TV personality and lifelong animal lover Carol Smillie and her pet pooch Jess. It's hoped the appeal will raise thousands for the charity's vital veterinary services.

Special collection tins, with a photograph of Carol and black lab Jess, have been placed in PDSA's charity shops and PetAid hospitals across the UK, making it easy for people to donate their spare holiday change. Businesses, such as pubs and gyms are also being urged to get involved, by displaying a collection tin at their venues.

Every contribution, however small, can really make a difference to a sick pet's life. Just 3 euros will help to buy eardrops for a poorly

pet, 7 euros will contribute towards the cost of a bottle of lifesaving antibiotics and 13 euros helps towards a stethoscope so a vet can listen to a sick pet's heart.

If you've recently holidayed in Barbados, relaxed in Bulgaria or had a city break in Barcelona and have spare foreign coins lying around, please donate them to PDSA. Every cent counts and will help us to care for the thousands of sick and injured pets we see every day.

Whether its dollars, euros or yen, any currency can be taken to the nearest PDSA store, PetAid hospital or call 01444 253777 to request a collection box today.

PDSA is the UK's leading veterinary charity, providing free veterinary treatment to the sick and injured pets of people in need.

In 2010, delivery of the charity's veterinary services will cost more than £50 million. PDSA receives no government or lottery money, and is funded entirely by public support, so fundraising activities such as the holiday change appeal are vital to the charity.

Visit [www.pdsa.org.uk/fundraising](http://www.pdsa.org.uk/fundraising) to find out more about how to help.

**Brenda Smith, PDSA fundraising manager**

## Countryside clutter is sign of the times

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) was celebrating moves by the Government to take action on signage clutter.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles and Transport Secretary Philip Hammond are writing to councils to ask them to 'cut the clutter', echoing calls first made by CPRE in 1996 in its groundbreaking report *The Cluttered Countryside*.

Clutter needs to be tackled in both rural and urban areas. With every local council in England drawing up new Local Transport Plans, this welcome move by Eric Pickles and Philip Hammond could not be better timed. Clutter is not just ugly – it's expensive and distracts drivers.

CPRE believes that the greatest potential to cut clutter is on minor country roads and residential streets. Due to a one-size-fits-all approach, these are often treated the same as main roads, despite different needs. In 2006 a survey by CPRE Hampshire of a seven mile section of the B3006 in the South Downs National Park revealed there were an average of 45 signs per mile. The branch is now working with Hampshire County Council to reduce the number of signs and use locally distinctive features to calm traffic.

A sign added here and a sign there over time can become a forest of traffic signs. Strong policies against cluttered streetscapes and landscapes need to be backed up by clutter audits to assess the problem. With public spending limited and the public calling for action, it makes sense to encourage community groups to assess and address the problem in the local areas they know best.

**Ralph Smyth**  
senior transport campaigner for CPRE





## DAY & NIGHT

### In the search for seals

TAKE to the ocean wave in search of wildlife with Sea Searcher Boat Trips next Wednesday.

The company will run a 90-minute trip from Ramsgate to the active seal colony in a national nature reserve, leaving the Royal Harbour at 3.30pm.

For more information visit [www.seasearcher.co.uk](http://www.seasearcher.co.uk) or call 07837 562076 between 8am and 4pm.

### Art for all seasons

PAINTINGS and prints by P & J Arts can be seen at the Bay Art Gallery in Herne Bay this week.

The exhibition is called All Seasons and it runs until Saturday. The gallery in William Street is open from 10am to 4pm and admission is free.

To find out more call 01227 372266 or visit [www.bayartgallery.co.uk](http://www.bayartgallery.co.uk).

### Pianist plays with trio

LEADING female pianist Frances Knight will be performing with her trio in Folkestone on Thursday.

She will be joined by award-winning jazz vocalist Paola Bottomley for the concert in Keppels Music Room at The Grand, starting at 8.30pm. Tickets cost £5. To reserve seats call 01303 277175.

### Rocking it with Ricky

ROCK 'n' roll tribute artist Ricky Fontayne will be stepping back in time for an evening of nostalgia this weekend.

Join him for a night of 50s and 60s music at Ashford Rail Club in Beaver Road, Ashford, at 8.30pm on Saturday. Admission is free for members. Visit [www.rickyfontayne.com](http://www.rickyfontayne.com). For details of the venue call 01233 635954.

### Rural artists' invitation

ARTISTS living or studying in a rural parish within five miles of Bridge are invited to take part in the village's annual art exhibition.

The show takes place on October 2 and 3, and artists can submit up to three exhibits, including sculpture and craftwork. Entry forms are available from Sturrock & Co in High Street and at [www.artinbridge.org.uk](http://www.artinbridge.org.uk).

### Crooner's big break

A JILTED crooner must pull off the performance of a lifetime in the 80s musical, The Wedding Singer.

An amateur production of the comic love story, adapted from the Hollywood film, can be seen at the Granville Theatre in Ramsgate from Thursday to Saturday. To book tickets call 01843 591750.

### Catch last village tour

THIS year's final village tours of St Peter's in Thanet will be held tomorrow and Saturday.

Starting in the churchyard of St Peter's Church at 9.45am, the tour is free but donations are welcome. Booking is essential, so call 07546 514948 or email [online@villagetour.co.uk](mailto:online@villagetour.co.uk) to reserve your place.

# Galaxy of stars shine at theatre

## WINTER GARDENS' NEW SEASON

Various dates

Winter Gardens, Margate.

THE summer might be over, but there is plenty to look forward to the Winter Gardens this autumn.

Over the next few months, the evenings will draw in and the weather will turn colder, but a good laugh or an uplifting concert will keep the chills at bay.

The new season gets off with a flourish as the Texas Tenors roll into town this Saturday and the fun continues with the nostalgic Disco Inferno later this month, when over-18s can get down and boogie to the best of 70s and 80s soul and disco music.

More nostalgia will be on offer when the venue runs a trip to see the award-winning musical Jersey Boys in London on Thursday, September 23. Based on the true story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, the hit show tells the story of how four boys from humble backgrounds invented an exciting new sound and went on to sell 100 million records.

Singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman pays a visit to demonstrate why her songs have been performed by such huge stars as Elton John, Bette Midler, Neil Diamond, Emmylou Harris and more. Talented performers from local schools, theatre groups and societies will gather for the Winter Gardens Showcase, giving rising stars the chance to shine on the big stage.

Next month, veteran comedian Jenny Eclair marks her 50th birthday by wondering if an old dog really can learn new tricks. Along with her sharp and insightful stand-up comedy, Eclair has also won new fans of all ages with her appearances on Grumpy Old Women, in which she casts her comic eye over life's absurdities.

Popular children's characters such as Bob the Builder, Angelina Ballerina and Fireman Sam will be seen on stage together for the first time when Premier Productions presents The Little Big Club - Live in Concert. Young audiences can be part of the fun when this magical show visits Margate on October 10.

Celebrating their 30th anniversary, Level 42 bring their national tour to the Winter Gardens to play hits such as Lessons in Love, Leaving Me Now and Running in the Family.

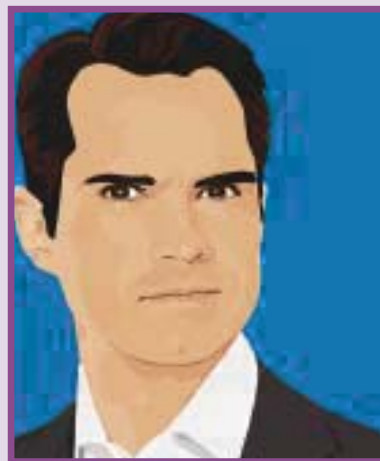
There will be a rumble in the ring when LDN Wrestling presents an evening of big men and big talk, with stars such as Karl Barbarian Krammer due to appear.

Plan B's concert has already sold out, but Danger Mouse, the world's number one secret agent, is on a mission to entertain with his first theatre tour. See Danger Mouse in action with his faithful sidekick Penfold, the evil Baron Silas Greenback and other popular characters in this fun family show.

Former Mike and the Mechanics frontman,



STAR LINE-UP: Clockwise from above: Level 42, and comedian Jenny Eclair and Jimmy Carr



Paul Carrack, will delight fans with his timeless soul voice in November, while comedy fans can look forward to one of today's most successful stand-ups. Jimmy Carr's relentless touring schedule has been rewarded by packed theatres all over the country, as he delivers his hilarious but strictly adult comedy, which is not for the easily offended.

There will be more hilarity when Al Murray, the Pub Landlord, brings his barrel of fun to

Margate that month, while identical pop stars Jedward, who shot to fame as the most controversial act on last year's series of The X-Factor, will be taking to the stage.

Other highlights of the new season include performances by singer Jane Macdonald and comedian Trevor Lock. Tickets can be booked online at [www.margatewintergardens.co.uk](http://www.margatewintergardens.co.uk) or by calling the box office on 01843 292795/296111.





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## ABALICIOUS

Saturday, September 11, Sinden Theatre, Tenterden

PULL on the flares and struggle back into your old platform shoes for an evening of timeless Abba hits.

Kent-based tribute group Abalicious will take to the stage at the Sinden Theatre, leading a homage to the Swedish super group this weekend. The band is returning to the theatre for the third time and looks set to provide yet another great evening of 70s glam rock and nostalgia.

Using no backing tracks, Abalicious covers all Abba's best-loved hits live and are sure to get audiences on their feet. The band is led by Carla Winters,

who was a finalist on ITV's Pop Idol and has worked with some big names in the business, including Pete Waterman and Will Young.

From Dancing Queen to Waterloo, the band has a large repertoire to draw on and they also use a light show to add extra atmosphere.

Carla Winters has worked with a number of show bands including Star, The Choice, Abba Rival, China Grove and Le Tour.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £14. To book call 01580 763826 or visit [www.sindentheatre.biz](http://www.sindentheatre.biz).



## THE TEXAS TENORS

Saturday, September 11, Winter Gardens, Margate

THREE outstanding singers proved they were anything but cowboys on America's Got Talent last year.

After their impressive appearance on the TV show, the Texas Tenors are hitting the road to perform for their fans in the UK.

Combining smooth cowboy charm with classically-trained voices, the Texas Tenors will be performing everything from Nessun Dorma to My Way.

Marcus Collins, JC Fisher and John Hagen are childhood friends who have each enjoyed successful careers as actors and classical singers. Collins has made a number of TV and film appearances, including starring alongside Bruce Willis in Perfect

Stranger. He began to sing at the age of four, inspired by chart artists such as Garth Brooks and George Michael, before training classically at college.

Despite growing up in a Midwest farming community, Fisher developed a love of opera and enjoys introducing audiences to Neapolitan songs and arias.

Hagen is renowned for his performances of the Verdi requiem and Beethoven's Symphony Number Nine and is considered a tenor of superb quality.

Tickets cost £19.50/£17.50. Book online at [www.margatewintergardens.co.uk](http://www.margatewintergardens.co.uk) or call the box office on 01843 292795/296111.



## CW STONEKING AND HORSE FEATHERS



Thursday, September 9, and Saturday, September 11  
The Farmhouse, Canterbury

TWO evenings of live music are on offer at the Farmhouse this week, starting with a truly compelling performance.

CW Stoneking draws on pre-war blues, jazz, 1920s calypso and folklore to create amazing sounds. Along with his brass band, the Primitive Horn Orchestra, he performs a wide remit of songs from field holler blues to hokum blues duets. He is signed to the same record label as blues musician Seasick Steve and looks set to go far with his historically-influenced music.

He will be supported by Cocos Lovers, a local band with many family members in the line-up. Over the last year they have performed their folk music to people across the country and beyond.

On Saturday, Horse Feathers will be returning to the Farmhouse. Hailing from Portland, Oregon, they purvey a fine brand of folk music.

Tickets cost £8 for Thursday's concert and £6 for Saturday.

To find out more visit [www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk](http://www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk).



## MEDIEVAL FOOD AND FEASTING

Every weekend in September, Dover Castle



BECOME an historical VIP at Dover Castle this month and take part in the medieval merry-making.

Find out how the Royal household celebrated harvest time, as costumed characters portray the servants, entertainers and noblemen who would have been part of castle life.

Visitors will learn about the delicacies of the time and how a menu fit for a King would have been put together. There will even be the chance to sit at the table and see how royalty would have enjoyed a medieval banquet, as well as learning to dance in medieval style to music with a culinary theme music.

Down in the kitchen, visitors can enjoy their own taste of the celebration by sampling local wine, mead and ale provided by Wells Bombardier Beer. Discover the alternative methods in which members of the Royal Court were paid in the 12th century, receiving not only money but also bread, wine and candles. The castle huntsman will reveal how some of the food was provided, as he and his faithful deerhound demonstrate medieval bush craft.

For more details go to [www.english-heritage.org.uk/dovercastle](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/dovercastle).

Picture: JONATHAN PERCIVA



## ROOM ON THE BROOM

Monday, September 13,  
and Tuesday, September 14  
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



YOUNG audiences are invited to join in a magical adventure with the spellbinding show, Room on the Broom.

Adapted from Julia Donaldson's best-selling book, with illustrations by Axel Scheffler, the story is now a colourful stage show which is sure to captivate children aged three and above.

One night, a witch and her cat are flying through the air on her broomstick when suddenly something terrible happens – her hat, bow and wand are blown away by a gust of wind and disappear into the night.

When some new friends come along in the shape of a daft dog, a beautiful bird and a friendly frog, together they manage to find her possessions.

But disaster strikes when they all try to ride the broom and, with a hungry dragon on the scene, who will save the witch?

Room on the Broom is presented by Tall Stories, the creators of the hit children's show, The Gruffalo.

Performances start at 4.30pm on Monday and 11am and 1.30pm on Tuesday. Tickets cost £10/£8.50. To book call 01227 769075 or visit [www.thegulbenkian.co.uk](http://www.thegulbenkian.co.uk).



Picture: SIMON THURTELL







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# Learn the subtle art of networking and put your business one step ahead

IF you want to stay on top in business today it's crucial to master the modern skill of networking.

These are the reasons why networking has become so important to small businesses:

1. Networking is seen in this current financial climate as low or no-cost marketing.
2. Networking is seen as the opposite to hard-sell and cold-calling.
3. Networking is seen as a 'social', more comfortable or easier way to gain customers, without having to sell or be sold to.

But there's a problem with that:

1. Networking isn't cheap.
2. Without skill, networking is random and produces random results.
3. Without a clear strategy and the skills to back it up, networking produces a lame bit of PR of questionable value.

More mature professionals are often quite comfortable socialising. They enjoy it, even.

But the rules have ALL changed.

My father was a Rotarian for 44 years. He would have shuddered at the thought of 'selling' to his club colleagues, and yet, in his day, they all bought from each other. The loyalty was staggering. Not any more.

Networking is, to put it politely, a free-for-all. (Virtually) anyone can turn up, and sometimes the competition is fierce!

Standing out is the first hurdle. What every networker wants to ensure is that they get noticed and remembered. And if you're just one of 27 grey suits, how do you make that happen?

How can you leave the meeting having made a lasting impression? How can you ensure that in the crowd, when they think, 'Oh, there's that great accountant I met', yours will be the

name that springs to mind?

Your name and the name of your business need to be front of mind when people think 'accountant'; just like everyone chants McDonald's, when they think fast food or burgers.

So how can you and your business achieve this pole position? It's all about influence.

We used to call it 'selling'. Now, we're more sophisticated and we call it 'influencing'.

Building profitable relationships in business is down to one thing: your ability to influence the other person. It always has been. It's just that now, the psychology around it has changed.

We need a consistent system. These are the stages of the process. When you get them right, profits flow as a consequence. When you get them wrong, there's often a great deal of disappointment and a dent to the bank balance.

- Preparation.
- Entering the room.
- Shaking hands.
- What to talk about.
- What to say.
- How to listen.
- How to identify who has potential to buy or refer.

- How to get into a rapport – with anyone.
- How to match the conversational style and needs of the other person.
- How to influence without overtly selling.
- How to identify those people with whom a profitable relationship is most likely to be built.
- How to avoid the seven cardinal sins of networking.
- Understanding the rules of the game and checking that they do too.

Which brings me to the best-kept secret of face-to-face networking: online follow-up – the way to multiply results and make more money.

Exactly how and when you follow up your initial meeting is crucial. Your follow-up email or phone call can make or break the relationship.

Send them a salesy email and they'll hate you for it. Offer to help or ask a great question and they'll pay more attention and like you more.

**• By QJ, The Extreme Inspirationist. QJ leads inspirational, practical seminars showing businesses how to make more money and how to leverage their relationships to greater profit at the next level. For information or inspiration, see [www.theinspirationist.com](http://www.theinspirationist.com), email [qj@theinspirationist.com](mailto:qj@theinspirationist.com) or call 0800 840 609.**

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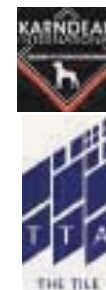
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## Family-run business aims to build on roots and reputation

AN ASHFORD family business is using the skills and experience gained on major construction projects in the capital to deliver quality buildings back home.

Wealden Woodstyle, set up 10 years ago by two long-term Kennington friends, has been making a name for itself working on apartments, hospitals and custodial buildings for major London firms.

Originally set up as a partnership by Darren Black, pictured, and Simon Blake, the company has now been incorporated as a limited company and is widening its focus to take on projects in Ashford and beyond.

While Darren's background is in timber-framed buildings and bespoke kitchens, partner Simon has building very much in his blood. His grandfather's company, Beaney and Sons, was responsible for a great deal of building in Ashford in the 1960s.

The company has established a reputation for high-quality design and build work and wants to play a part in making sure the new buildings currently appearing as part of Ashford's rapid expansion are well designed and conceived.

Darren's wife Zoe and Simon's wife Daniella are also actively involved as

directors of this well-rooted family business with strong local connections.

"We care passionately about Ashford as we grew up here and saw it develop from a market town to the thriving business centre it is now," said Darren.

"Simon's grandfather played a part in Ashford's post-war growth and we want to continue that by offering a quality product delivered by skilled local tradesmen."

NHBC-registered Wealden Woodstyle, which provides sub-contracting services in carpentry and joinery as well as offering a full building service, has now moved to new premises just outside Ashford, where the landlord immediately asked the company to take on a major office repairs project on an adjacent site.

"It is important to use a local builder because you can visit the company, check out their work, talk to them about their ideas and take advantage of their local knowledge," explained Simon.

Wealden Woodstyle has worked in the retail and housing sectors as well as on major Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes and corporate office builds. "We're keen to use that experience on building projects in Ashford," Simon added.



# Personal touch leads to baby boom for shop

## Ed Hill meets Sally Starley who knows the long-term value of personal service at Ashford's Tiny Tots baby shop

IT MAY be a tough time in the retail world at the moment but one independent trader in Ashford says you can be a success if you are prepared to go the extra mile.

Sally Starley is the owner of Tiny Tots. She started the business 32 years ago. Her shop at the corner of Bank Street and Elwick Road specialises in everything parents need for their newborn baby.

She said: "I think our success is definitely down to knowing our customers. People come to us for advice. We don't push hard to sell them things but we hope they remember that we have been helpful when they do decide to buy something."

Tiny Tots is now the oldest independent baby store in the south of England and attracts customers from around the country.

Mrs Starley said: "Our reputation is passed

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down from generation to generation. Brothers and sisters who had things bought for them here when they were children come back to us even if they move away.

"Our customers come from all over Kent, London and beyond. I'm even sending a pram to Manchester."

One of Mrs Starley's customers even made the journey from Hertford to thank her after she had been so helpful on the phone.

She said: "We are a traditional business. It all comes from word of mouth. I think the most important thing is to be able to talk to people either in the shop or by phone. It really helps to understand exactly what they need; that way they will get the best product and the best value for money."

Tiny Tots has a website but does not sell things directly online.

Mr Starley said: "We do send things mail order, but I feel it is always best to have direct contact with the customer first."

She also says her shop offers service no large chain or supermarket ever can.

She said: "I'm passionate about my business and my customers. Particularly for new parents we are able to offer a lot of advice and reassurance. We are all mothers and grand-



**MOTHER SUPERIOR:** Shop owner Sally Starley feels going that little bit extra is what keeps her customers coming back for more

mothers ourselves. I have had five children myself. We have been there and done it."

• Tiny Tots can be contacted on 01233 623511.

## Daytrippers are ticket to boost in coach company's business

COACH companies have enjoyed something of a boost thanks to the recession, volcanic ash clouds and people's renewed interest in holidaying in the UK.

Alan Johnson has been in charge of Crosskeys coaches in Folkestone for the last 10 years and said business is continuing to hold up well.

He inherited the reins from his parents, when it was based in Newingreen, and has established a loyal customer base and developed some excellent working relationships with major tour operators.

The company, which has 22 coaches in its fleet, now operates out of Caesars Way in Folkestone and offers routes to a wide variety of UK and European destinations.

Despite the recession inevitably hitting everybody in the travel market, Mr Johnson said there have been some high points to come out of the past year.

"It's been steady, it was quiet at the beginning of the year but then that was down to the snow," he said.

"We picked up extra business during the ash cloud, transferring people from Dover docks to various airports."

"We've just finished our summer with taking foreign students to and fro and there wasn't any decrease on that from last year. The cruise ships coming into Dover are still keeping us busy."

Asked about the advantages of taking the coach compared to a car or plane, he said: "It saves on parking, you can be picked up at one point and be dropped off



at a central location. You haven't got to worry about finding a space or congestion.

"A lot of people think when they're given the price for coach hire it's quite high, but when you divide it down by 50 people, it's actually quite reasonable."

"Daytrips are among our most popular offering, with London being one of the most popular destinations. But then we do a lot of holidays for customers where they hire the coach for the week and go off to north Wales, Scotland or Newcastle."

However, a new trend has emerged over the summer, with theme parks now a hit with families wanting to go by coach.

Mr Johnson said: "We've done better this year on the theme parks. Possibly people have been staying at home this year so they've been taking their children out on a few different day trips rather than one holiday."

"Hopefully it's going to be positive from now on, but you never know. You've always got to be careful, just in case."



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# UNIQUES



## Home security company offers National ambitions with friendly, local service

WHILE most people would choose good local service over a call centre-driven multi-national, there are some situations where size does matter.

Home and business security is one area where people want friendly service but welcome the back-up that comes from a company that is big enough to respond swiftly and efficiently in an emergency.

It may sound like the best of both worlds, but that's exactly the promise made by Red Alert, a security company that has national ambitions but is still based in Ashford, where it was set up 17 years ago.

Red Alert has the back-up, the experience and the skilled engineers to deal with every eventuality, but still provides outstanding service with a local feel and has looked after many of its customers since managing director Clive Gawler began the business in 1993.

Red Alert installs smoke detection and fire alarm systems as well as a wide range of wired and wireless intruder alarm systems.

On the subject of maintenance, Clive is so committed to providing good service that he doesn't expect customers to sign a contract for that vital annual check.

"If we give a good service then we expect our customers to ask us to



**CAUSE FOR ALARM:** Security company Red Alert offers service with a smile to clients big and small

carry out their maintenance next year too," he explained. "We'd never dream of trying to lock them into an annual contract."

Clive's team also fits automated gates and garage doors that allow access at the touch of a button and installs external security lighting that reassures the householder while making life more difficult for any potential intruders.

It installs CCTV cameras that can protect commercial as well as domestic property and has contracts with councils and companies

across Kent.

A true local success story, Red Alert now looks after parts of the National Gallery in London as well as other high-profile galleries and big-name customers.

But while the company is growing steadily and making a name for itself well beyond the county's borders, it remains committed to providing an efficient and friendly service to loyal local customers who like to see the same faces arrive to carry out their annual alarm system maintenance.

## Cooking up a

### Independent kitchen shop makes a meal of catering for all shopping tastes

THE Orange Tree Cook Shop is an exceptional supplier of kitchenware truly rooted in the community, writes *Jenny Armstrong*.

Run by personable grandmother Sandra Clarke on Herne Bay's High Street, customers are sure of helpful advice.

For Mrs Clarke, 55, the kitchenware business runs in the family. She said: "My dad had a cook shop in Whitstable for about 17 years. I set the shop up in 1998 as I thought Herne Bay could do with a cook shop."

"The town didn't have anything like that at all – there are the odd pound shops and supermarkets that sell some things – but apart

from that there wasn't anything specialised in the town. So I thought I'd give it a go."

Mrs Clarke runs the shop herself and relishes the opportunity to get to know the townspeople. She said: "Over a period of time people get to know me, I get to know them and it's friendlier than a shop assistant in a big store who doesn't know you from Adam."

"It's nice really because over a period of time you get to see people quite regularly. A lot of people come in, especially a lot of more elderly people, for a chat."

"They don't come in to buy anything half the time but they ask about my holidays and the children. I'm in a small town and people have got to know me, which is nice because otherwise it can be a long day!"

"It's nice to get someone in to pass the time. We donate raffle prizes to the schools and the summer fêtes so you get to be part of the community."

And the businesswoman believes her independent shop can do something the bigger stores cannot – cater to the needs of all.

She said: "The advantage of using a small trader is we sell all



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# bargain buy



**BAKING A PROFIT:** Orange Tree owner Sandra Clarke stocks those everyday kitchen items

the little bits and pieces the big places don't bother with. They are interested in the big machines and gadgets. I make sure I stock all the bottle brushes and sugar tongs.

"People always come in and say: 'You haven't by any chance got...'. I've been going 12 for years so, over that period of time, you do get to build up your knowledge. On the whole I can answer most of people's questions or get them what they want."

And Mrs Clarke has found the downturn has had some unexpected consequences in her field of business. She said: "Cupcakes are a really big trend at the moment. They have taken off



really, really well.

"Since the recession people have been coming back to do more cooking from basics. They're not buying pre-made food – they're making it themselves and doing their home-baking.

"It's not just the older generation now – it's the younger families with their kids learning to cook again."

# Recession fails to floor carpet specialist

THERE may be an underlaying recession, but an Ashford flooring business has bucked the trend by opening a brand-new showroom on the prestige Orbital Park site.

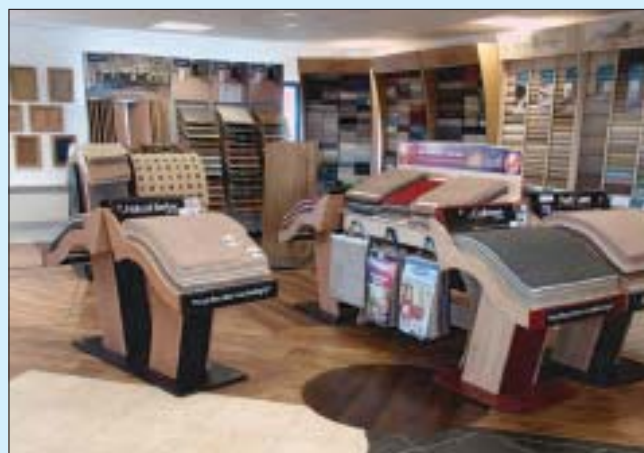
Trevor White set up Diamond Floorings as a mobile flooring business just three years ago, driving out to potential customers and leaving them with samples they could look through in the comfort of their own homes.

Despite launching during the worst economic conditions for decades, the business took off, and Trevor soon realised that he needed a permanent showroom to capitalise on the increasing demand caused by referrals from his existing customers.

"It's been astonishing," said Trevor. "While other businesses are struggling, our sales have increased to the point where I needed to open a showroom to meet demand. I couldn't drive quickly enough to get round the customers who wanted me to visit them!"

The result is a new showroom housing a wide range of carpets and vinyl floor coverings at The Glenmore Centre, Moat Way, on Ashford's prestige Orbital Park. Diamond Floorings is the area's only stockist for the exclusive British-made Victoria Carpets range and for Karndean designer floor tiles.

The showroom, which opened at the weekend, will serve both domes-



Picture: DOUG HARRMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

**WALL TO WALL:** Diamond Floorings' new showroom

tic and business customers with a range of quality floor coverings, from premium carpets and designer vinyls to top-name laminates.

"The showroom has a much more intimate feel than the traditional warehouse-type building and I'm determined to continue to offer the personal service that has helped us to get to this position," said Trevor.

"In particular, we will continue to offer hassle-free fitting at a time that suits the customer and we will do any furniture moving necessary, get rid of the old flooring and vacuum behind us."





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# Meet Brittain's most trusted sales staff

STAFF at Brittain & Hobbs have been providing people in Sittingbourne and Sheerness with electrical appliances since 1972, writes *Jill Hurst*.

While other independent firms have crumbled in times of economic hardship or up against corporate giants, this family business has managed to entrench itself so well it's become part of the fabric of both towns.

The firm sells a range of appliances including washing machines, cookers and televisions, together with smaller items such as toasters and irons. It also runs a rental centre and repair service for its own items in addition to electronic goods, laptops and games consoles.

Although still involved in the rental side of things, founder Ron Britain has passed the day-to-day running of the company to his son Robert and a team of 16 staff, including branch manager Michael Prizeman.

Michael believes the continued success of

Brittain & Hobbs is down to its customer service. He said: "It's a very friendly place to work. I've been here 14 years and some of our engineers have been here donkey's years."

Michael says this has resulted in a consistency customers have come to trust. "There's certainly more repeat business here than anywhere else I've worked and that's a reflection of the level of service."

"Our aim is to provide a quick and personal service. Bigger chains may have stores in the area but their warehouses are located in various parts of the country. This means customers have to wait for their orders."

"We have a warehouse on site so if you buy a fridge-freezer in the morning you can have it in the afternoon."

"Unlike the big chains we provide a complete service so our engineers won't just dump stuff and run. If they're delivering a television, for example, they'll make sure it's set up and the customer is happy before they leave."

"It's small details that make a difference

and that's why people come back to us."

Brittain & Hobbs take their position in the community seriously, participating in town events such as the carnival and sponsoring a charity fun day each year.

They've also moved with the times using the internet to spread their message and keep in touch with clients – boasting 300 friends on the social networking website Facebook

Hard work, reliable products, trustworthy staff and a commitment to the community seems to be their formula for success.

And having made the final 12 in the Swale Chamber of Commerce's business of the year award – with the winner being announced in



**PLUGGED IN:** The successful team of 16 staff at Brittain & Hobbs is lead by branch manager Michael Prizeman (left)



October – it seems the customers aren't the only ones who think so.

• Brittain & Hobbs are at 6 Roman Square, Sittingbourne, and 22-24 High Street, Sheerness. You can contact them on 0800 027 3500 or [www.brittainandhobbs.co.uk](http://www.brittainandhobbs.co.uk).

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Friday 17th	Blackpool Illuminations (4 Day Break)	From £192.00
Saturday 18th	Sluis	£34.00
Tuesday 21st	Buckingham Palace	(SOLD OUT)
Thursday 23rd	Boulogne	£24.00
Friday 24th	Bressingham Steam Museum, Nr Diss, Norfolk	£34.00
Sunday 26th	London Eye, Carvery & Thames Cruise	£59.00
Wednesday 29th	Historique 39-45 Ambleuse Museum	£29.00
Thursday 30th	Bruges	£32.00

### October

Saturday 2nd	Arras	£28.00
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Sunday 10th	Doctor Who Live	£56.00
Wednesday 13th	Sheffield Park & Autumn Drive	£23.00
Saturday 16th	De Panne	£20.00
Tuesday 19th	Oxford Street	£14.50
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Wednesday 10th	Brick Lane Music Hall	(SOLD OUT)
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Wednesday 17th	Lakeside or Bluewater	£14.00
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Saturday 27th	Romford Market	£16.00
Saturday 27th	Brussels Xmas Market (2 Day Break)	From £93.00
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Wednesday 1st	Bluewater or Lakeside	£16.00
Friday 3rd	Brick Lane Music Hall	(SOLD OUT)
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Monday 6th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
Wednesday 8th	Camden Lock Town & Markets	£17.00
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Saturday 11th	Santas Magical Kingdom, The Hop Farm, Kent	£34.00
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# Taste Kentish fare in ideal historic setting

ELVEY Farm is a medieval farmhouse in a magical setting in the village of Pluckley and a visit there is like stepping back in time, *writes Nick Ames.*

Meridian TV's Jeff Moody is the man behind one of the county's top venues when it comes to stylish dining and last Christmas opened the restaurant.

Since then Jeff and his partner Simon have been amazed at the number of people who come to eat at their restaurant.

"We see so many familiar faces," said Jeff. "Some people come back week after week, which is lovely because you get to know them."

The restaurant is in a 16th-century barn and enjoys a wealth of period features and views over the fields.

Specialising in old-fashioned Kentish recipes, it showcases some of the best local dishes.

The kitchen has also resurrected some old classics, such as game meatballs, and apple and cobnut pudding, and these sit comfortably alongside modern alternatives such as salmon and prawn terrine.

Chefs have created a dish called A



Taste of Kent, which includes hop-picker's pie, hunter's pie and venison and chestnut casserole.

Staff have tracked down many of the old recipes to create truly unique food such as a watercress lady's lunch and thresher flan.

Gypsy tart is also a current favourite on the menu as a dessert.

Jeff said he wanted a new challenge and the chance to be his own boss after years as a TV reporter.

He said: "Being independent has given us the chance to experiment

and ensure that we keep to local recipes and produce.

"Our motto is 'Kentish to the Core' and that includes making sure even the soap is made locally.

"We think it's extremely important to do this. Our meat comes from a farm just down the road in Smarden and our fish is caught off Hythe.

"The Old Kentish recipes are all faithful recreations alongside our own creations.

"For instance, the watercress lady's lunch is in honour of a local ghost – an elderly lady who smoked a pipe and drank gin, but set herself on fire and then drowned after jumping into a stream to try and put the fire out.

"It's a duck breast salad with juniper berries and marinated in gin. This is just one of the advantages of being an independent business. We can try out different things and express ourselves."

Jeff added that he was very happy in his role as a restaurateur and guesthouse owner.

"I spent a long time in TV, both BBC and ITV2," he said. "But now I'm doing what I always wanted – being my own boss and having the chance to express myself and do what I want to do."

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Sandwich Sports Centre	12.00pm - 1.30pm
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# You'll love being on the road to Santa Fe

WHAT'S the most important part of your new car? Miles to the gallon, resale value, CD system?

No. If you intend to drive any distance, comfortable, supportive seating is number one.

After 30-odd years of driving, I've lost count of the back trouble I've suffered due directly to rubbish seating in cars.

For me it's top priority and drivers who suffer the same problem should remember it as they sign the cheque for their shiny new motor.

So, the only thing I was going to criticise about the Hyundai Santa Fe was the driver's seat: electrically adjustable, leather, heated, so it should have been easy to get comfortable.

But it wasn't. I needed more lumbar support and cursed it a few times until the eighth day (and almost 900 miles later), as I prepared to return it to Hyundai, I discovered – conveniently placed on the side of the seat – two buttons... to alter lumbar support.

How I missed it I will never know. Perhaps it was the fact that it was loaned for a week-long holiday in Norfolk and I was on my way within hours of taking delivery.

But I can confirm that for the final few miles in my stewardship the seat was finally comfortable, perhaps it could have done with a fraction more side support when taking bends, but it would be churlish to complain.

So, the Santa Fe is a fine 4x4, good-looking in the same way Merc off-roaders manage and – I'll whisper this – it's a bargain.

Ignore the green anti 4x4 brigade and consider the Santa Fe – a good-looking estate car with stacks of space and rugged 4x4 when the going gets tough.

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6 airbags with roll-over sensor  
Air-conditioning  
Eco drive indicator  
Electronic stability programme (ESP)  
Leather steering-wheel and gear knob  
Reversing sensors (body coloured)  
Rear spoiler with integral brake light  
Self-levelling suspension (7 seat only)

six-speed auto box, which lists at £25,705.

Its 194bhp 2.2 litre diesel actually feels much bigger and, even with auto, she'll tow 2,000kg.

The lower spec Style starts at just over £21,620, so we are talking value here.

The green dashboard ECO light comes on when you're driving sensibly, 2,000 rpm means about 70 in 6th, so mid 30mpg is easy.

It feels as familiar as a Ford Fiesta to drive, and despite the size, is easy to manoeuvre. The indicator and wiper stalks are on the 'wrong' side, like old Japanese cars, as is the South Korean way, but you soon get used to it.

The seven-seat option was perfect for a week's holiday with three teenagers. On the journey to Norfolk they sat in the back, and the load compartment swallowed enough luggage for the trip and the self-levelling suspension kept the whole car in shape.

In Norfolk I spent a lot of time on country roads doing 30-50 mph. It's not a sports car and



**ALL-ROUNDER:** The Hyundai Santa Fe was perfect for a family trip to Norfolk, with its even-seat option and iPod docking

I wouldn't drive it as such. She rolled a bit more in corners than a saloon or estate but slow in accelerate out on bends meant swift progress with a minimum of passenger discomfort.

The Santa Fe has specific MP3 and iPod sockets to play through the decent stereo, which forms part of a neat, tidy dash, bathed in blue light, which I like.

Will she off-road? Yes, I think so. A couple of passing places in narrow lanes had me welcoming the electrically folding door mirrors and I had a couple of the wheels 'off-road'.

I discovered you could turn off the ESP and engage the diff lock to get muddy but I didn't

need to. The biggest benefit though for my return to Kent and its terrible road surfaces was the sensibly profiled road tyres on hand-some alloys. No pothole fears with this baby.

The likes of Kia and Hyundai have come on massively in the past 10 years and they make cracking motors now that compete with the best and with their gold-plated warranties they are now world bestsellers. Enough said.

My tip would be choose according to your dealer. Many are brilliant, some may not be, so ask around and trust your instinct.

**Gary Wright**

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2.5 V6	
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2.0 JTS	£299.99
Alfa Romeo GT	
1.8 TS 16v	£299.99
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# Why keeping it local can bring you peace of mind

Buying from a trusted local dealer brings benefits over internet deals

WHEN money is tight, the last thing many of us need is to fork out thousands on a new car or spend hundreds of pounds on repairs.

But if your motor gives up the ghost, leaving you without wheels, then a new car, or paying for repairs to your current one, is an expense that must be met.

The internet is bursting with bargains and offers that seem – and often are – too good to be true.

Many local dealers say that the deals found online come with catches and clauses not always obvious to customers, plus there is the fact that it is much harder to examine a car that may be shipped to you from the other end of the country, or even abroad, for yourself.

So why should buyers buy their car from a local dealership?

Bryan Smith, the principal dealer at Baileys Nissan in Canterbury said that local dealers offer many deals as competitive as you would find elsewhere.

He said: "Staying with a local dealership is simple. If you have any issues with the car then you can deal with us face-to-face and resolve those issues in person. This could save you a lot of time and money in the long run."

"If you pick up a car that's delivered from, say Edinburgh, and it turns up with a scratch on it, then your problem is with the dealer there.



**WHAT PRICE SATISFACTION?** Great service brings drivers back to their local dealer, something internet deals cannot equal

"Also, the local dealer is as competitive as ones elsewhere in the country as we all work to the same margins, so there shouldn't be much difference in the transaction price.

"The internet changed the industry, but a lot of the offers that are advertised don't even exist. We always have offers on new cars, offer low-rate financing, free roadside assistance,

minimum part-exchange deals and incentives for our loyal customers. I think this is why people come back to us, as well as a high-level service. At Baileys we like to treat our customers as part of the family."

Steve Ashby, sales manager at Pierremonts in Broadstairs, said the relationship that is built up with customers is a key part of what makes local dealers a better bet.

"The aftercare is an important thing, as well as what we can do for the customer once they've taken the car home.

"We will look after their needs in the future if we can, taking time to understand what the person wants.

"It's not just about making a profit for dealerships like ours. If you give someone good service then they are likely to return, and that in itself is valuable to us.

"We have some people who have been coming to us for years, to get car after car, and that is a really nice feeling, to know that person is satisfied by the service we offer.

"Also there is that reassurance that the car's history is known to us, which might not be the case if ordering from the internet.

"It all goes to show that staying local really is a great option."

**Thomas Betts**



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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda3 range (excluding Mazda3 MPS): Urban 26.7 (10.6) - 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 48.7 (5.8) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 37.2 (7.6) - 62.8 (4.5). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km) 175 - 119.

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# Documentary-style thriller can't exorcise sense of the ridiculous

■ BY DAMON SMITH

FILMED in the faux documentary style, popularised by The Blair Witch Project and Paranormal Activity, *The Last Exorcism* follows a fourth generation evangelical preacher as he attempts to expose exorcism as pure bunkum.

With a camera crew conveniently behind him to capture every bump in the night, the man of God instead comes face to face with pure evil and perhaps the one bona fide case of demonic possession in his career.

Director Daniel Stamm attempts to create the illusion of reality by allowing the cast to improvise around a loose narrative framework, and many of the actors play characters with the same Christian names.

However, Huck Botko and Andrew Gurland's underlying script increasingly strains credibility and the camera has a knack of pointing in the right direction to capture vital parts of the narrative, when there should be some events which bypass the lens entirely.

*The Last Exorcism* opens in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where Reverend Cotton Marcus (Patrick Fabian) tends to his flock.

Pressed into service at an early age, Cotton followed in the clerical footsteps of his father John (John Wright Jr), praising the Lord to his faithful believers, his wife Shanna (Shanna Forrestall) and son Justin (Justin Shaffer).

The holy man has slowly lost his faith and has decided to expose the smoke and mirrors he uses to conduct fake exorcisms.

So he travels to Ivanwood with director Iris (Iris Bahr) and her cameraman to meet farmer Louis Sweetzer (Louis Herthum), who believes that his daughter Nell (Ashley Bell) is possessed by the dark side.

Cotton conducts the fake exorcism, and both Louis and Nell believe the evil spirit has been purged from her body.

Soon after, events spiral out of control and



**CREATING REALITY:** Iris Bahr as Iris Reisen, Caleb Landry Jones as Caleb Sweetzer and Louis Herthum as Louis Sweetzer, and right, Patrick Fabian as Reverend Cotton Marcus and Ashley Bell as Nell Sweetzer

Cotton is forced to return to the Sweetzer homestead with the camera crew to consider the possibility that Nell might be under the influence of a demon after all.

"I'm not comfortable that we're in a house with a girl who is drawing pictures of me with my head chopped off," says the cameraman, speaking for us all.

The *Last Exorcism* is well made and night time scenes are particularly effective, captured in the light fixed on top of the camera which swoops back and forth, looking for fig-

ures in the all-enveloping darkness.

Fabian is an engaging central protagonist and by the end of the film, Bell has staring lifeless into the camera down to an art form.

If Stamm's film is anchored in reality, it cuts itself free for the overblown resolution, which attempts to give credence to the disturbing images in Nell's drawings.

Crucially, if this was a real documentary made on the Sweetzer estate, then the final frames logically suggest the footage would never see the light of a brand new day.



**THE LAST EXORCISM**   
Certificate 15



**OLD CODGERS:** The sun has finally set on *Last of the Summer Wine*



## YOUR TV REVIEW

FAREWELL TO LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE, BIG BROTHER AND THE BILL

THREE TV stalwarts came to an end this summer: *Last of the Summer Wine*, *Big Brother* and *The Bill*.

Last of the Summer Wine has been on the box my whole life.

Every episode seemed much the same. Three old codgers end up plummeting down a hillside after having got tangled up in some escapade involving tights and an old bath/bicycle/canoe/pram or whatever comical mode of transport the writer had chosen that week.

It was a bit like watching the Goodies on vitamin supplements.

As a child, it was a marker that the weekend was over.

When I was at university I lived near Holmfirth, the Yorkshire village where the series is shot. Bus loads of tourists would come to walk past Nora Batty's house or have a cup of tea at Sid's Cafe, where Compo,

■ BY ED HILL

Clegg and whoever the tall one was that series, would hang out.

A mature student in my year, Terry, claimed he was Compo's stuntman. He certainly looked the part. He said it helped to bring in a bit of extra cash when he wasn't running his market stall in Leeds.

The script consisted of endless discussions about Eccles cakes, ladies' undies and hapless husbands, punctuated by accidents that would send a pensioner to the grave.

More recently the show became a sort of retirement home where every old actor or actress who had ever been in a TV sitcom could remind us they were still alive.

As for *Big Brother*, no doubt TV executives will miss the cost-effec-

tiveness of filling their schedule with hours of footage about nothing.

I have not watched it since the first series, when it seemed like an interesting social experiment. After that I took an occasional glance at the celebrity series until I realised I did not know who any of them were.

Finally, the coppers at *Sun Hill* have felt their last collar. The *Bill* seemed fresh and realistic when it started but I lost interest when it went to three episodes a week. I feel sorry for all those actors fresh out of drama school. Where will they go for their first telly job?

If you miss these shows I say forget television and support your local pub. You can see OAPs bickering about the pointlessness of life there every night. If you are lucky, they may end up in a police cell. Then the regulars can decide which one to vote out.



## MOTORS NEWS



### Ford peps C-Max appeal

FORD'S all-new C-Max MPVs go on sale next month from £16,745.

The five-seater is intended to uphold the out-going car's reputation as one of the sportier people carriers on the market, while the seven-seat Grand version (£18,745) with twin sliding rear doors is a new departure – the first generation C-Max was only ever available with five seats.

Both versions will sell as well-specified premium models with just Zetec and Titanium trim levels – at least initially – and a choice of three petrol and two diesel engines.



### Jaguar leaping ahead

JAGUAR sales are roaring – the UK sporting executive marque said sales have leapt 45 per cent so far this year and a whopping 74 per cent in August against August 2009.

This was achieved despite the end of X-Type production and no replacement model and while largely driven by the success of the XF, which outsold its Audi and BMW rivals in every month so far this year, the new XJ saloon was also director's car sector best seller for May, June and July.



### Nissan turns a new Leaf

ORDER books have opened on Nissan's new Leaf – claimed to be the world's first affordable, mass-produced, 100 per cent electric vehicle.

Deliveries start in March, priced at £23,990 – including a £5,000 government incentive and the new 20 per cent VAT rate – but Nissan says it will be possible to run the Leaf for less than two pence a mile and with reduced servicing costs, exemption from London's congestion charge, zero road tax and zero benefit in kind penalties for company car drivers.



**MAKING A NOISE:** Peugeot has raised its game in the MPV stakes and the 5008 offers the versatility demanded by users and the glass cabin gives it an exemplary fit and finish

# Peugeot finally gives table a thump with new 5008

## ROAD TEST HYHYHYHYHYH

■ BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

sliding mechanism on the three second row chairs – and with all five rear seats capable of folding flat for van duties.

Rarely for this sector, the rearmost pair also takes adults rather than being restricted to passengers who keep asking Dad “are we there yet?” when he's already ratty from having to buy an MPV.

Not surprisingly, the flagship Exclusive spec test car with a 1.6-litre HDi 110bhp diesel helped first impressions with its full-length panoramic roof plus powered sunblind and head-up display showing speed and a distance alert for the car in front reflected in your sight line.

However, the test car's six-speed EGC (electronic gearbox controlled) transmission had me in two minds – much the same can be said for the device itself.

On paper, this clutchless manual delivers better and greener performance than the manual for just £400, but the fully auto changes are jerky and erratic. Buy it if you mostly prefer manual changes and would use auto only in town traffic – don't buy if you habitually drive an automatic because it won't be smooth enough in most situations.

THERE probably isn't a lot of Gallic shoulder-shrugging and table thumping at Peugeot.

But the ‘quiet man’ of the French motor industry has waved its arms around lately with: a Nissan Qashqai riposte (3008), a stunning rival to the Audi TT (RCZ Coupe), a super-car concept and plans to take the ‘Lion Brand’ from No10 to No7 in global production volumes within five years by launching 14 new models.

Oh, and it just did an about face and launched a proper people carrier and it's one of the best – the seven-seat 5008 (from £17,495).

Marketed as “Enjoyed by families – loved by drivers” it mostly gets away with it too, although any MPV is bound to stretch the latter point and the 5008 is outclassed by a Ford S-Max on a winding rural road, but the Ford can't match the Peugeot's ride quality, so it comes down to personal preference.

The executive class cabin features exemplary fit and finish – Peugeot has raised its game here lately – plus the vital versatility that MPV buyers demand.

The 5008 has good individual seating for seven or multiple permutations – helped by the



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### 2007 Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Highland Green Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 33,303 miles. £8,995\*

### Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI Estate

Leater Trim, Air Con, 61,500 miles. £7,995\*

### 2003 Skoda Octavia 1.8 T Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Admiral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 12,403 miles. Was £4,995. **Now £4,495\***

### 2001 Skoda Octavia 1.4 Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 79,450 miles. £2,995\*

### Skoda Fabia 1.2 Estate

Saturn Grey, Top of the Range, 10,700 miles. £9,495\*

### 2008 Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDI Estate

Dark Grey, 25,310 miles. £9,495\*

### 2008 Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,995\*

### 2007 Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Flamenco Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 13,295 miles. £6,995\*

### 2008 Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Storm Blue Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 26,875 miles. £6,495\*

### Skoda Superb 2.0 Elegance

Black, 1 owner from new, Sat Nav, Climate Control, Leather Trim. £6,995\*

### Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDI Estate

Red, FSH, 51,768 miles. £6,495\*

### 2004 Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 48,500 miles. £3,995\*

### 2003 Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 81,500 miles. £2,995\*

### Skoda Roomster 1.9 TDI

Silver, 11,000 miles. £10,795\*

### Skoda Roomster 1.6 16v, Automatic

Red, 14,500 miles. £9,495\*

### Other Makes

### 2008 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equippe 4-Door Saloon

Finished in Metallic Gunmetal Grey, Manual, 21,800 miles. £7,995\*

### 2004 Volkswagen Touran 1.6 S (100BHP) 7-Seat

Finished in Blue Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 50,500 miles. £6,995\*

### SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16v Style

Silver, FSH, 1 owner from new, 16,190 miles. £6,495\*

### 2006 Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Astral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,430 miles. £4,495\*

### 2004 Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet Jan 2004

Artic Steel Metallic 86,467 miles Manual Petrol £3,995\*

### 2002 Daewoo Tacuma 1.6 SE 5-Door MPV

Finished in Imperial Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 59,500 miles. £2,995\*

### Rover 23 GSi 1.4 3dr

Grey, 55,000 miles. £2,495\*

## Clearance Sale

### Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI Elegance

ONLY £1,995\*

### 2002 Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback Mar

Bright Red 39,350 miles Manual Petrol. Was £3,995. **Now £2,995\***

### 2006 Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Colorado Red with a Black Cloth interior, 56,500 miles. Was £3,995. **Now £3,295\***

### 2002 Renault Clio 1.2 Expression 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Moondust Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 74,300 miles. Was £2,995. **Now £2,295\***

### 2004 Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

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**06 Ford Mondeo 2.0 Diesel Hatchback 5dr**  
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Total Amount Payable £7199.23* <b>APR 9.9%</b>				

**04 Ford StreetKa 1.6 Convertible 2dr**  
in Silver, 71067 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
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Total Amount Payable £4748.32* <b>APR 9.9%</b>				

**07 Kia Sedona 2.9 Diesel MPV 5dr**  
in Silver, 31095 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£8699	£869.90	£190.85	£43.00	£340.64
Total Amount Payable £10350.49* <b>APR 9.9%</b>				

**07 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 Hatchback 5dr Manual**  
in Silver, 79288 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£5499	£549.90	£119.70	£27.00	£269.90
Total Amount Payable £6615.70* <b>APR 9.9%</b>				

**07 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Diesel Hatchback 5dr**  
in White, 22859 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Construction slowdown bad news for builders

A NOTED fall in construction orders in recent weeks is bad news for the industry, the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) has said.

Recent reports say seven per cent more surveyors have reported a fall in total construction workloads during the summer.

Figures from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors found public housing and other municipal works were the worst-affected sectors, probably as a result of cuts in government spending.

Additionally, the latest Markit/CIPS Construction Purchasing Managers' Index shows UK construction activity slowed to its weakest level in four months in July.

Brian Berry, director of external affairs at the FMB, said: "Sadly, none of this is a total surprise as it reflects the feedback we have been getting from our members about the building industry suffering because there is less government money available for capital projects."

However, he went on to say that the Government's green deal, which will see 26 million homes refitted, could potentially offer new job opportunities.

### Mortgage rise fails to turn market forecast

THE number of mortgages being granted is up on the month – but down on the same period last year.

But it has led to some reports the housing market is heading for a double dip recession after it was revealed that the lending figure was the second lowest ever, compared with payments.

Gross mortgage lending increased by five per cent, to £13.6 billion, in July – up from the £12.9 billion seen in June, but lower than the £14 billion in July, 2009.

CML economist Paul Samter said it is difficult to see any particular speed being injected into the market for the rest of the year, with low lending and transaction levels dragging things down.

"But for most home owners, the situation is not that bleak," he said. "The vast majority of households continue to pay their mortgages in full every month, and many have benefited from the record low interest rates."

The margin between mortgage rates and the cost of funding to lenders through the swap rate market is at an all-time high, research from Moneyfacts recently suggested.



# Buyers choose comfort over green technology

■ BY NICK AMES

A SURVEY of estate agents has revealed the kind of features that homebuyers look for when choosing a new home.

And surprisingly, tastes have not been too heavily influenced by environmental considerations.

In this age of green living, when recycling and global warming are at the forefront of the news, features such as solar panels and views of eco-friendly wind turbines etc were considered the least appealing, whereas enhancements such as conservatories came out on top.

The research was conducted on behalf of Specflue, a UK supplier of flue, stove and chimney products, and asked experts what makes a property appealing to potential purchasers.

More than 80 per cent of estate agents rated a conservatory as the feature most likely to appeal to a purchaser, in comparison to solar panels and wind turbines only scoring 14 per cent and three per cent respectively.

Gemma Collins, spokeswoman for Elephant Windows in Kent, said: "I am not overly shocked by these results, as although the property market is currently on a rollercoaster ride and finances are uncertain with the ever looming effects of the recession, our sales in conservatories have almost doubled."

"What once could have been named the ultimate luxury within a household has now become affordable and can actually add thousands of pounds to the price of a property, especially as there are now products such as A-Rated windows."

"These types of windows can lower the loss of thermal heat that leaks through building fabric, thus fulfilling its environmentally friendly role to reassure the consumer, whilst still looking aesthetically pleasing to the eye."



**SITTING PRETTY:** Conservatories are top of potential buyers' wish lists, say agents, with eco-friendly items such as solar panels and wind turbines lagging behind

The results of the survey also indicated luxury additions such as wood-burning stoves and wet rooms are among the top priorities when looking for a new home.

Peter Maskell, managing director of Brock Taylor Estate Agents, added: "These findings clearly show the features that appeal to potential purchasers. People's tastes have become considerably more sophisticated over the last 10 years and buyers now search the marketplace with a specific wish list in mind."



## Check home insurance small print

HOMEOWNERS should talk to an insurance provider before taking out home insurance, in case they are unaware of some clauses which affect the outcomes of deals, say experts.

The British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) says it is concerned that many people are unaware that home insurance policies have differing occupancy clauses, which generally sets a maximum number of days that you are allowed to leave a property empty.

BIBA technical and corporate affairs executive Graeme Trudgill explained that home-

owners need to take advice on what they will be required to do if they intend on exceeding this occupancy clause.

He said: "Lots of people don't get advice. They just go online, find the cheapest thing and click 'buy'."

"BIBA are concerned that people are just buying online without reading the terms."

His comments follow the publication of data earlier this year, suggesting that uninsured victims of burglary face an annual bill of £200 million.



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## Kingsnorth £205,000

Park Farm is an attractive development set on the outskirts of Ashford. The location has been carefully designed to ensure access to local amenities, popular local schools & into Ashford town centre.

Ashford Office

01233 624561



## Kennington Guide Price £275,000

Four bed residence in Canterbury Road, Ashford. The property is set back from on a slip road that runs adjacent and also benefits from ample off street parking.

Ashford Office

01233 624561



**Ashford Guide Price £120k to 130k**  
Terrace house, consists of two bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen and lounge/diner. Garden & garage.

Ashford Office

01233 624561



**Kingsnorth Guide Price £140k to 160k**  
Three bedroom semi detached house. Lounge, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, family bathroom. Off road parking for two cars and enclosed rear garden.

Ashford Office

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## Ashford £224,950

Five bedroom semi detached residence with the added attraction of \*\*No Onward Chain\*\*.

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## Ashford Guide Price £300k to 320k

Semi Detached House close to the centre of Ashford and which is currently used as a house for multiple occupancy and has a guide price of £300,000 to £320,000.

Ashford Office

01233 624561



## Ashford Guide Price £350k to 370k

Five bedroom detached bungalow. Lounge, open plan kitchen through to dining area. Master with en-suite bathroom & dressing room which could be used as a fifth bedroom. Off road parking.

Ashford Office

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**Kennington Offers in excess of £130,000**  
No chain. Three bedroom mid terrace. Lounge/diner. Kitchen/diner. Double glazing. Central heating.

Ashford Office

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## Ashford £189,950

Four bedroom semi detached family home in the ever popular location of Francis Road. Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen & Bathroom. To the rear is garden with area of patio.

Ashford Office

01233 624561



## Kingsnorth Guide Price £365,000

Five bedroom family home. En-suites to two bedrooms. Ground floor cloakroom. Separate utility room. Parking and garage en bloc.

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- Fitted kitchen
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- Ideal for a family
- Garden
- Off street parking

**£182,500**

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#### Ashford

- Semi detached house
- Lounge, kitchen/diner
- Three bedrooms & garden

**£210,000**

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#### Willesborough

- Three bedroom end of terrace house
- Two reception rooms
- Conservatory. Garage/Workshop

**£175,000**

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



#### Kennington

- Terrace house
- Two bedrooms
- Fitted kitchen, lounge & dining area

**Asking Price £145,000**

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#### Kennington

- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Lounge, dining room & conservatory
- Garden & driveway

**Offers in excess of £165,000**

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



#### Ashford

- Ground floor two bedroom flat
- lounge/dining room
- communal gardens, parking & garage

**£110,000**

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#### Willesborough

- Three bedroom link detached house
- Fitted kitchen & bathroom
- Driveway, garage & garden

**Guide Price £180k to 200k**

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#### Ashford

- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Lounge, kitchen & dining room.
- Garden

**Offers in excess of £170,000**

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



#### Ashford

- 2nd floor apartment
- Close to local shops and amenities.
- Communal facilities

**Offers in the region of £135,000**

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#### Ashford

- Three bedrooms
- Newly modernised and redecorated
- Garden

**£117,500**

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



#### Ashford

- Top floor apartment
- Lounge/diner, fitted kitchen
- Allocated parking

**Offers Over £80,000**

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#### Canterbury

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#### Maidstone

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#### Willesborough

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# Bairstow eves

**Canterbury 01227 765527**

canterbury@bairstoweves.co.uk

**Countrywide**

## Canterbury



**£195,000**

The property comprises: entrance hall, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen to the ground floor and three bedrooms.

## Canterbury



**£215,000**

Detached bungalow. Off road parking. Gardens to front and rear. Fitted kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms & lounge.

## Canterbury



**£215,000**

End of terrace period cottage. Lounge/diner, kitchen and bathroom/wc. Garage. No chain.

## Canterbury



**£229,950**

Terraced home. There are well established gardens to both front and rear. The rear garden measures approximately 100'.

## Canterbury



**Offers in excess of £230,000**

One bedroomed Penthouse Apartment with its own private terrace and situated in a prestigious location.

## Canterbury



**£150,000**

Three bedroom house. Lounge/diner, modern kitchen, established gardens to the front and rear, garage en-bloc.

## Canterbury



**£250,000**

Semi-detached house in a cul-de-sac location with off road parking, gardens & garage/workshop.

## Canterbury



**Asking Price £265,000**

Three bedroom townhouse. Lounge/diner, bathroom and low maintenance courtyard style garden with side access.

## Canterbury



**Asking Price £320,000**

Three/Four bedrooms. Lounge. Kitchen. Ample parking. Enclosed rear garden. Viewing is highly recommended.

## Canterbury



**£470,000**

Detached home. The properties have their own gas fired central heating, double glazed windows and doors.

[www.bairstoweves.co.uk](http://www.bairstoweves.co.uk)

[www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk](http://www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk)



# Looking for a new pad?

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What houses have been sold in the area



Look for what schools are in the area



Look for transport links in the area



Find the nearest local supermarkets

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- Two Bedroom House
- Village location
- Lounge
- Dining Room

## Bishopswood

£1100pcm



- Four Bedroom House
- Detached property
- 3 double beds 1 single
- Popular Location

## Cypress Avenue

£750pcm



- Three Bedroom House
- Lounge/Diner
- In Godinton Park
- Garage

## Twelve Acres

£675pcm



- Three Bedroom House
- Lounge with patio doors
- Kitchen with appliances

## Bishopswood

£995pcm



- Four Bedroom House
- En-suite to master
- Lounge
- Dining Room

## Barley Way

£725pcm



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## Forum Way

£795pcm



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## Barleymow View

£550pcm



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Look for transport links in the area



Find the nearest local supermarkets



Use [www.PropertyforKent.co.uk](http://www.PropertyforKent.co.uk) where you can search through more than 10,000 homes for sale across the county.

Online you can view full property particulars, location map and agents details, plus find out about current house prices in the area, schools, transport links and even where the nearest supermarket is.

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**RGN and RMN's Full time/Part time/Bank**  
Applecroft Care Home LTD are currently seeking enthusiastic and motivated staff for their 75 bedded EMI/Nursing Home in River, Dover.

We are looking for Nurses who have experience of working with elderly residents with Dementia. This is an exciting opportunity to use your nursing skills within a supportive and flexible team environment.

Salary negotiable depending on experience with the opportunity for promotion within the company. The successful applicants must have a valid NMC PIN. For more information please contact Miss Kate Sheppard Home Manager on 01304 821 331 or email [kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk](mailto:kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk)



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Applicants should be of smart appearance, possess excellent organisational skills, have a good telephone manner and people skills, together with good computer ability (Microsoft Office).

Competitive rate of pay.

For more information please contact **Jacqui Butler** on **01622 737025** or email cv to [jacqui.butler@canfordhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:jacqui.butler@canfordhealthcare.co.uk)

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## Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

### Lecturer in Electrical Installation

**Ref: P0357**

**Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience)**  
**Medway**

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to deliver Electrical Installation to learners studying from level 1 to level 3. The successful candidate will contribute to the development, delivery and teaching of Electrical Installation programmes. The ideal candidate must have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Building Services Industry, have sufficient teaching experience and educated to Level 3 or the equivalent in the relevant field. The successful candidate must have; an Advanced Craft Certificate, including Inspection and testing of Installations and possess either a D32/34 or A & V Awards and hold a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to work towards one. Good IT skills and the ability to work within a team are essential.

**Closing date: 12 noon on Wednesday 15 September 2010.**  
**Interviews to be held on Monday 20 September 2010.**

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

**MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer**



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### Community Assistant KS5 • Pro-rata • Term time only

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, positive and committed person to join our highly regarded Communities of Learning. This is an important role supporting our Heads of Communities of Learning within our vertical student support system. Applicants must be able to work collaboratively and have some prior experience of working with children or young adults.

The successful applicant will require an enhanced disclosure. Further information about the disclosure scheme can be found at [www.disclosure.gov.uk](http://www.disclosure.gov.uk).

For further information or an application pack please contact the school on 01233 614600 or email [jmanning@north.kent.sch.uk](mailto:jmanning@north.kent.sch.uk)

Closing date for applications: 13th September 2010



[www.north.kent.sch.uk](http://www.north.kent.sch.uk)  
[www.kent-teach.com](http://www.kent-teach.com)



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### Young Persons' Drug and Alcohol Treatment Worker

**£21,519 – £27,849 + Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,239 per annum**  
**37 hours per week • Based Medway**

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

This post will involve one-to-one work with young drug and alcohol users (aged 10 – 18) experiencing complex difficulties. These may include concerns around mental health, safeguarding, homelessness, offending and chaotic substance misuse issues.

Covering the Medway towns and surrounding area, we are looking for someone with good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication and casework skills and proven experience of working effectively with young drug and alcohol users. Applicants with experience of working with young people with a dual diagnosis will be particularly welcome.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) Alternatively, you can email [recruitment@kca.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference 704.

Closing date: Midday on Monday 13 September 2010.  
Interview date: Monday 27 September 2010.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.  
Charity No: 292824

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)

Progressive, Responsive, Effective







# The future of local media

Would you like to be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent's towns and districts?

## Media Sales Executives

We have an opportunity for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market-leading portfolio of newspapers and magazines.

We're not looking for people to just take orders; we're looking for people who can provide first class solutions for our customers.

We believe good customer service is at the heart of our success and we want to recruit people who can develop excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

## Digital Sales Executives

You will play the key role in selling advertising and sponsorship across our market-leading portfolio of websites and mobile products.

Candidates will possess a proven track record in media sales, combining excellent communication and presentation skills, a great business acumen, tenacity, and the ability to build positive business relationships. Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured sales technique, a positive manner and great all-round organisation and IT skills.

## Other Vacancies

KOS Media is always interested to hear from people with ideas who would be interested in a career in multi-media, within local or regional markets.

Whatever your skill set and experience is, please do tell us about yourself and send in your CV, with a covering letter, telling us what you have to offer and how you see yourself working at an innovative media company such as KOS Media.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

## To apply send your CV with covering letter to:

Jason Pyne, Development Director  
KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.  
Or by email: jason.pyne@kosmedia.co.uk

## Events and Exhibitions Executive

You will play the key role in selling and coordinating our groups events, exhibitions and sponsorship across our market-leading portfolio of newspapers, magazines, show guides, websites and mobile products.

- All vacancies come with the opportunity to earn high bonus potential, which is uncapped and based on your skills and desire to achieve major market share gains.

We're looking for professional individuals who are able to take ownership for their client group and work on their own initiative. Above all you will need to deliver total commitment and dedication to the business to help us continue to be the very best.

Applicants must have a full and valid manual driving licence. Ideal candidates will be computer literate with a sales/marketing background and the ability to provide industry-leading customer service.

## About us

KOS Media publishes the UK award-winning Kent on Sunday newspaper and a series of free weekly newspapers, magazines and associated websites and mobile products.

The company produces kentnews.co.uk and yourkentTV, an internet-based TV service providing regional and local news, business and sport, plus websites for jobs, property and motors.

KOS Media's newspapers have won more than 10 national awards, including UK Regional Newspaper of the Year, and UK Free Weekly Newspaper of the Year six times.

In June, 2010, media group Archant purchased KOS Media.

## Archant is the UK's largest independently owned regional media business

It is a community media company active in the fields of regional newspaper and magazine publishing, contract printing and internet communications. All its titles serve clearly defined communities, based around locations or interest groups.

Archant can trace its roots back more than 160 years and today remains one of the country's largest independent media businesses. As a private company it employs 1,850 people right across England. It has an annual turnover of £142 million.

The newspaper division, Archant Regional, produces four daily regional newspapers and around 60 weekly titles with a combined circulation of 2.25 million copies every week. It is a UK top six regional newspaper publisher. It also publishes many of the group's 180 websites and a number of its magazines.

Archant also owns three magazine companies, which between them produce around 80 magazines.



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**Closing date 17th September 2010**

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## Qualified & Registered Nurses (Clinical Advisors)

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The service is embarking upon an exciting journey to change the way that patients access urgent and emergency care over the telephone, this has created opportunities for qualified clinicians to staff our Clinical Advisor Desk. You will be champions for change, providing a clinical presence in the Control Room and improving patient access to a wide variety of pathways through the Directory of Services, thus ensuring patients receive the most appropriate advice and treatment based on their needs.

These roles will suit Nurses from a variety of backgrounds and would be ideal for those returning to work following a career break, recent nursing graduates or those wishing to move away from a traditional ward, community or outpatient environment. Consideration will be given to full or part-time hours.

For an informal discussion, please contact Daniel Garratt, Senior Distribution Manager on  
07825 386491 or apply online at [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk) quoting reference 278-CLINADVISOR-0510-JT  
Closing date: 18 November 2010.

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## Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

### Customer Services Supervisor

**Ref: P0070**

Salary: £18,709 - £21,994 per annum  
Maidstone

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an excellent candidate to supervise, motivate and coordinate the activities of a team, engaged in all Customer Service activities, to enable the Maidstone Campus to meet the College's strategic aims and its day to day responsibility to provide high quality education and training.

The successful candidate will have a customer-focussed approach towards excellence, be confident and self motivated with the ability to work on own initiative demonstrating confidence in decision making. The candidate must also have the ability to plan, prioritise and monitor their own work and the work of the team.

The role will be working closely with the Campus Manager and the Health and Safety Manager to provide a robust service to the College.

A recognised customer service and / or management qualification would be desirable along with basic health and safety training with a commitment to gain an IoSH qualification in "Managing Safety".

A track record of managing teams would be advantageous for this exciting role.

**Closing date: Wednesday 15 September 2010**

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



TV One Ltd is a leading UK manufacturer for Audio & Video conversion products for the Pro AV, Broadcast and Live Events markets.

We are looking for 4 candidates to work as part of a growing R&D team located in East Kent, primarily focused on High Definition video conversion systems based around our proprietary CORIO® technology.

### R&D Manager - £49-55K + Benefits

Primarily responsible for the Project, Product and Personnel Management of the R&D Department including Customer liaison for OEM products and bespoke design. Key Skills: Experience in Team Leading/Management of R&D team; Good Project Management skills; Good Systems Design knowledge

### Windows Software Engineer - £39-45K

Primarily responsible for the design and development of Windows & Web based technologies to control our range of video processing products. Key Skills: Fluent in Visual studio C# / Visual Basic; Experience of designing GUI's with timeline functionality; Web Development

### Hardware Design Engineer - £39-45K

Primarily responsible for Initiating and progressing development of the Schematic & PCB designs from concept to production & compliance with EMC & safety standards. Key Skills: Experience in Digital & Analogue design, preferably incorporating video technologies; Experience of schematic entry and multilayer PCB design for complete design cycle from concept to production release

### R&D Test Engineer - £29-35K

Primarily responsible for the support of R&D for prototyping & testing of new designs, creation of technical documentation, maintaining quality of product and documentation. Key Skills: Experience in electronics product testing role (Hardware/Software etc), familiar with quality controls & testing standards, Good communication skills

To apply for any of these positions contact:  
Amanda Holges, TV One Ltd, Unit V, Continental Approach, Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate, Kent. CT9 4JG Tel: 01843 873300 [recruit.europe@tvone.com](mailto:recruit.europe@tvone.com) <http://www.tvone.eu>

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004 APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Croft Hotel, Canterbury Road, Ashford**  
Applicant: **Maya Berisha**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
Regulatory Services  
First Floor, Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



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## CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

## Kent League Division One

Ashford Town 1st XI v Harvel 1st XI

ASHFORD Town completed their summer with a fine 151-run win against Harvel to finish eighth in Kent League Division One.

It's been a topsy-turvy season for Town, who lost leading batsman Matt Lincoln to Premier Division side St Lawrence, while Liam Tegg took over from Craig Buckham as skipper.

The Ashford captain has been one of the stand-out players for the side and demonstrated that at the weekend. Tegg smashed 138 opening the innings for his team as they scored an impressive 299 for 4 from their 50 overs. Gary Sutton scored 96 in a big partnership with Tegg, who helped flay the Harvel attack to all parts.

In reply, Harvel's David Walker dug in for a gritty 61 at the top of the order and prevented the inevitable, but again it was Tegg that dominated proceedings.

The skipper came on second change and went on to claim superb figures of 6 for 29 to obliterate the Harvel batting line-up. Buckham chipped in with 4 for 62 to help bowl the visitors out for just 148 inside 38 overs.

## Tegg on form as Town finish season on a high



FINALE: Ashford skipper Liam Tegg (pictured) hit an excellent 138 as Ashford finished their season with a comprehensive beating of Harvel

## SCOREBOARD

## Ashford Town 1st XI

	Runs
Simon Taylor lbw b Bailey	5
Liam Tegg ct Daniel Walker b Bailey	138
Kyle McAlister ct David Walker b Atkins	21
Gary Sutton ct Daniel Walker b David Walker	96
Luke Reeves not out	13
Ahsan Raza not out	4
Sam Kennett did not bat	
Peter Shields did not bat	
Craig Buckham did not bat	
Ben Ealham did not bat	
Mohsin Raza did not bat	

Extras (9b 8lb 3w 2nb) ..... 22  
Total (4 wickets, 50 overs) ..... 299

## Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Desmond Bailey	15	2	67	2
James Marrable	14	2	90	0
McSweeney-Atkins	6	0	39	1
Samuel Walker	5	0	24	0
Murray Saunders	4	0	35	0
Robert McSweeney	5	0	23	0
David Walker	1	0	4	1

## Harvel 1st XI

	Runs
David Walker ct Sutton b Tegg	61
Robert McSweeney st McAlister b Tegg	20
Jesse Seven ct Tegg b Tegg	16
Daniel Walker ct McAlister b Buckham	6
Fraser Forward b Tegg	8
Arthur McCormick ct Buckham b Buckham	1
Samuel Walker ct Sutton b Buckham	0
Murray Saunders b Tegg	4
Oliver McSweeney-Atkins ct Sutton b Tegg	1
Desmond Bailey not out	16
James Marrable st McAlister b Buckham	1

Extras (5b 7lb 2w) ..... 14  
Total (all out, 37.3 overs) ..... 148

## Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Mohsin Raza	6	2	28	0
Simon Taylor	5	2	17	0
Craig Buckham	13.3	2	62	4
Liam Tegg	13	4	29	6

## LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

## KENT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Tenterden 1st XI v Holmesdale 1st XI

DIVISION TWO champions Tenterden completed their 13th win of the season, but were made to work for it by Holmesdale on the final day of the 2010 summer.

The visitors scored 231 for 8 with Mark Baker taking 3 for 48 and Tim Curteis and Timir Chanda sharing four wickets between them. In reply, Andrew Crawford hit 64, but wickets continued to fall and it was left to late order partnerships to see Tenterden home by one-wicket. James Rand finished unbeaten on 33.

## Holmesdale 1st XI

	Runs
William Browne st McDonald b Baker	12
Dom Makepeace b Chanda	67
Joe Whitehead lbw b Curteis	60
Stuart Brown ct Curteis b Chanda	0
Harry Galpin run out	56
Sam Harris b Curteis	0
Daniyal Domini ct Chanda b Baker	18
Mark Epps st McDonald b Baker	0
Max Melbourne not out	1
Matt Topliss not out	6
Pete Grove did not bat	
Extras (2b 3lb 2w 4nb)	11
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	231

## Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
James Rand	4	0	22	0
Timir Chanda	14	1	72	2
Mark Baker	13	3	48	3
Ryan Knight	14	0	55	0
Tim Curteis	5	1	29	2

## Tenterden 1st XI

	Runs
Tim Curteis b Melbourne	4
Andrew Crawford ct Topliss b Grove	64
Timir Chanda b Melbourne	4
Simon Berry lbw b Browne	5
Paul Brann b Epps	8
Ben Dalring ct Harris b Browne	6
Ben Leale-Green ct Epps b Browne	0
Thomas McDonald lbw b Galpin	31
Ryan Knight run out	33
James Rand not out	33
Mark Baker not out	12
Extras (9b 7lb 14w 2nb)	32
Total (9 wickets, 50 overs)	232

## Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Max Melbourne	11	2	56	2
Harry Galpin	11	2	54	1
William Browne	15	3	52	3
Mark Epps	6	0	30	1
Pete Grove	6	1	21	1
Stuart Brown	1	0	3	0

## KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE 1B EAST

St Margaret's 1st XI v Kennington 1st XI

KENNINGTON finished runner-up to Canterbury in Championship 1B East and wrapped up their season in style with a comprehensive nine-wicket win at St Margaret's.

Chris Watts took 4 for 29 and Robert Iles 3 for 12 to bowl the home side out for just 113 inside 40 overs. Watts then finished 38 not out, while Stuart Lancaster smashed an unbeaten 72 to see the promoted side home with more than 18 overs to spare.

## St Margaret's 1st XI

	Runs
Paul Jamieson ct Iles b Hughes	4
Lloyd King ct Pomfrett b Grove	29
Haydn Beer b Hughes	0
Mark Parnell ct Grove b Watts	22
Dale King ct Watts b Watts	35
Ritchie Hulks ct Pomfrett b Watts	5
Toby Kember ct Lancaster b Iles	2
Peter Bowley ct Grove b Iles	2
Daniel Kennett st Pomfrett b Iles	3
Ashley Birchenough b Watts	1
Ryan Hulks not out	0
Extras (2lb 6w)	8
Total (all out, 39.4 overs)	113

## Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Jeremy Grove	8	1	25	1
Ian Hughes	5	0	25	2
David Finch	9	1	20	0
Chris Watts	12	6	29	4
Robert Iles	5.4	1	12	3

## Kennington 1st XI

	Runs
Chris Watts not out	38
Grant Langfield b Kennett	0
Stuart Lancaster not out	72
Chris Drakeley did not bat	
Jeremy Grove did not bat	
Ian Hughes did not bat	
Ben Dalring ct Harris b Browne	
Robert Iles did not bat	
Joe Jolley did not bat	
Richard Pomfrett did not bat	
David Finch did not bat	
Neil Hope did not bat	
Extras (6w 1nb)	7
Total (1 wickets, 27.4 overs)	117

## Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Ritchie Hulks	10	1	40	0
Daniel Kennett	5	1	21	1
Peter Bowley	6	0	28	0
Mark Parnell	4	2	7	0
Ashley Birchenough	2.4	0	21	0

## KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP EAST

Mersham Sports 1st XI v Frindsbury 1st XI

MERSHAM will play cricket in the Kent Regional Premier Division as Championship East title holders next season.

They will also go into the new season in good spirits after finishing this summer with a resounding seven-wicket win at home to Frindsbury at the weekend.

Restricting the visitors to 146 for 9, thanks to three wickets apiece for Matthew Fagg and Kevin Wise, set the victory up and it was left to David Harman (69) and Dan Coulson (33 not out) to see the champions home.

## Frindsbury 1st XI

	Runs
Peter Blackman lbw b Pugh	24
Sam Dudgeon ct Harman b Wise	31
Robert Sait b Fagg	29
Selwin Fisher lbw b Pugh	0
Matthew Palmer b Wise	7
Samuel Gracey ct Coulson b Wise	4
Adam Loynds ct Wilson b Ealham	15
Laurence Cloughton b Fagg	10
Alexander Carr lbw b Fagg	12
Peter Elswood not out	1
Mark Gracey did not bat	
Extras (1b 6lb 5w 1nb)	13
Total (9 wickets, 46 overs)	146

## Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Matt Ealham	12	1	42	1
Darren Pugh	12	5	17	2
Kevin Wise	11	1	50	3
Rob Wilson	1	0	2	0
Matthew Fagg	10	2	28	3

## Mersham Sports 1st XI

	Runs
David Harman b Cloughton	69
Darren Pugh b Fisher	5
John Southern b Dudgeon	17
Dan Coulson not out	33
Ian Hughes not out	12
Matt Wilson did not bat	
Kevin Wise did not bat	
Matthew Fagg did not bat	
Alan Stevens did not bat	
Matt Ealham did not bat	
Rob Wilson did not bat	
Extras (3b 1lb 4w 3nb)	11
Total (3 wickets, 39.2 overs)	147

## Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Selwin Fisher	7	2	16	1
Alexander Carr	6	1	19	0
Mark Gracey	7	0	34	0
Sam Dudgeon	9.2	2	41	1
Laurence Cloughton	4	0	21	1
Peter Elswood	6	0	12	0

## KENT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 2ND XI

Old Colfeians 2nd XI v Ashford Town 2nd XI

ASHFORD'S second string rounded off what's been a disappointing campaign with an encouraging one-wicket win at Old Colfeians on the final day of the season.

Town finished bottom of Division Two, but showed glimpses of what they can do on Saturday. They bowled Old Colfeians out for 186 with Dan Cadd and Thomas Bailey each finishing with three wickets. Ian Fox then top scored with 50, but it was up to the final partnership of Robert Dagger and Darren Cooper to see Ashford home.

## Old Colfeians 2nd XI

	Runs
Raphael Pendergast b Cadd	0
Mark Handley b Cadd	1
Christopher Tarrant b Beech	4
Richard Thomas b Cooper	49
Manjeet Bahra c&b Cooper	40
David Hodgson b Bailey	4
Andrew Batchelder lbw b Bailey	15
Sachin Bhardwaj ct Fox b Cadd	12
Jack Kelleher b Bailey	2
Jacky Covindani b Senior	28
Mathieu Pendergast not out	0
Extras (2b 4lb 16w 9nb)	31
Total (all out, 46.5 overs)	186

## Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Dan Cadd	8	2	43	3
Shane Beech	10	2	26	1
Darren Cooper	15	4	39	2
Thomas Bailey	13	0	69	3
Chris Senior	0.5	0	2	1

## Ashford Town 2nd XI

	Runs
Jason Boulter c&b Pendergast	33
Arham Karim ct Batchelder b Kelleher	23
James Rodway ct Batchelder b Pendergast	3
Ian Fox lbw b Govindani	50
Chris Senior ct Govindani b Pendergast	14
Fraser Harrison ct Thomas b Govindani	12
Thomas Bailey ct Handley b Govindani	0
Shane Beech b Kelleher	10
Dan Cadd b Kelleher	6
Robert Dagger not out	6
Darren Cooper not out	6
Extras (7b 6lb 11w 1nb)	25
Total (9 wickets, 50.2 overs)	188

## Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Jacky Covindani	13	1	41	3
Sachin Bhardwaj	9	2	37	0
Jack Kelleher	12.2	2	34	3
Mathieu Pendergast	11	1	44	3
Christopher Tarrant	2	0	12	0
Manjeet Bahra	3	0	9	0



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